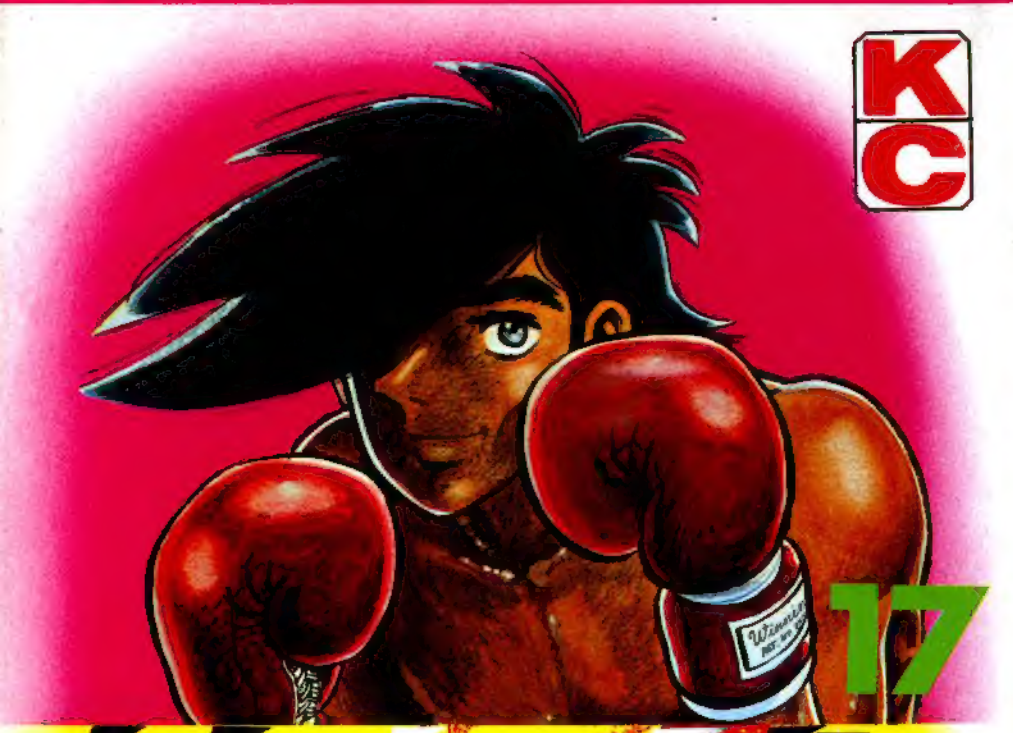
Kodansya Comics



17

あしたのジョー

原作／高森朝雄　ちばてつや

KC

あしたのジョー 17

KC

原作／高森朝雄
漫画／ちばてつや ★

講談社

KC172

KC

講談社
定価
★350円

雑誌 41021-72　　091724-2253 (1)

Kodansya Comics
KC172



あしたのジョー 17

原作／高森朝雄
漫画／ちばてつや

講談社

東洋のタイトルを手中におさめたジョーは、偉大な王者メンドーサの待つハワイへ勇躍飛びたつ！　野性味あふれる矢吹　丈の魅力がますます冴えるボクシング巨編待望の第十七弾！

〈装幀／水野石文〉

講談社
定価
★350円





〈著者近影〉

雑誌 41021-72　　091724-2253 (1)

Kodansya Comics

あしたのジョー⑰

原作/高森朝雄
漫画/ちばてつや

あしたのジョー⑰
原作/高森朝雄
漫画/ちばてつや

KCM
172
講談社

Kodansya Comics

〝殺し屋丈〟の異名をもつ野性のボクサー矢吹丈は、宿敵の力石徹を倒し、さらに世界六位の強豪カーロス・リベラに再起不能のダメージを与えて、いまでは世界への飛躍を期待される人気ボクサーにのしあがっていた。

折から韓国の東洋バンタム級チャンピオン金竜飛が来日し、丈はこれに挑戦して激闘の末、金をKOして東洋チャンピオンの座を獲得した。

勝利の喜びと周囲の祝福に包まれて、丈と所属の丹下ジムには平穏な日がつづいたが、間もなく、丈を後援するテレビ関東の肝入りで、海外遠征が計画され、ハワイで〝シンガポールの妖星〟と呼ばれるピナン・サラワクを相手に、初の東洋タイトル防衛戦が行われることになった……。

★前巻までのあらすじ★




IT'S A SORT OF CRITICISM.
WELL...
UMM...


WHAT DOES THIS SAY?
HEY, TV-DUDE.


HONOLULU SPORTS
LOUDMOUTH JOE YABUKI STORMED
WHILE MENDOZA WAS OUT
(NEWCOMER BLOWS HIS OWN HORN

I'VE GOT AN OVER-SIZED-EGO, DO I?

IT SAYS THAT THE JAPANESE CHAMPION'S GOT AN OVERSIZED-EGO.

WELL,

THAT'S WHY I'M ASKIN'.

AFTER I KINDA BLEW MY LID OVER THE CARLOS THING YESTERDAY.

WELL, I GUESS I CAN'T BLAME THEM FOR THINKING THAT,

I WANT TO KNOW WHAT THEY'RE CRITICIZING ME OF.

YOU BLEW THE WHOLE GYM UP SKY HIGH!

BLEW YOUR LID?

THE STRONGER YOU GET, THE MORE HATERS YOU GET AS WELL.

...

ALL THE PAPERS ARE CHEWING YOU UP!

"AT GYM WHILE MENDOZA IS OUT."

"PACIFIC CHAMPION JOE YABUKI BLOWS HIS OWN HORN,"

YEAH, YEAH.

DON'T YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW STUPID IT IS TO PISS OFF ALL THE REPORTERS OF A COUNTRY YOU'RE VISITING FOR THE FIRST TIME!?

I'M NOT JOKING AROUND HERE, JOE...

CAN I BORROW THE RENTAL CAR?

BY THE WAY,

...

YOU SHOULD KNOW BY NOW I AIN'T THE TYPE TO THINK FIRST ABOUT CONSEQUENCES AND THEN ACT.

SPARE ME THE LECTURES.

IT'S IN THE PARKING LOT.

SURE.

YOU'VE GOT A PUBLIC TRAINING SESSION TODAY AT 2!

J-JOE!

I'M GONNA GO TAKE A DRIVE FOR A CHANGE OF MOOD.

ALRIGHT,

JUST HEAD TO THE GYM BEFORE ME AND TAKE A NAP.

NOT LIKE THERE'S A WHOLE LOTTA PLACES TO GO IN THIS TINY ISLAND ANYWAYS.

I KNOW.

ONE HELL OF A CAR WE GOT!

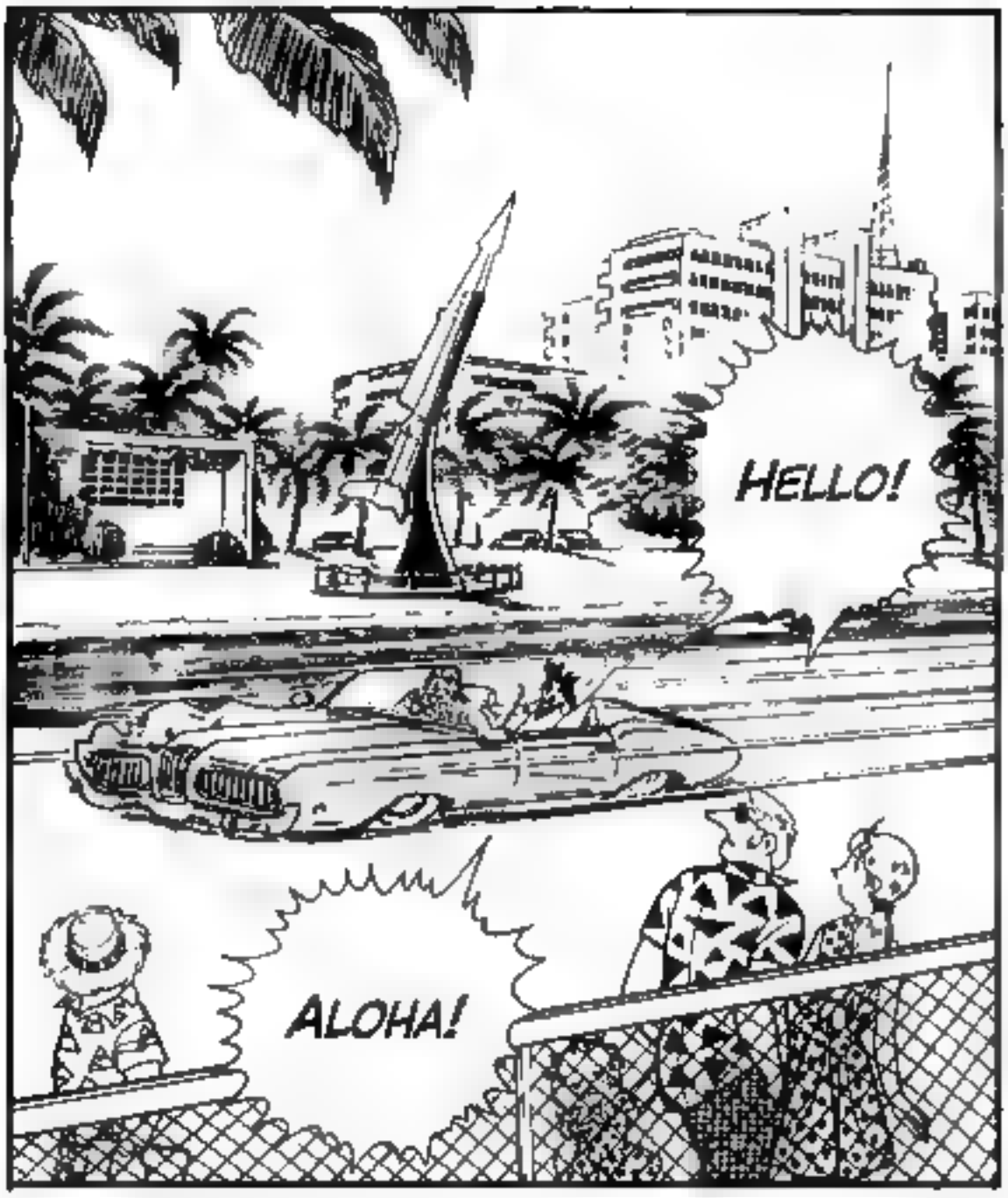
WHOA! A MERCURY COUGAR!?

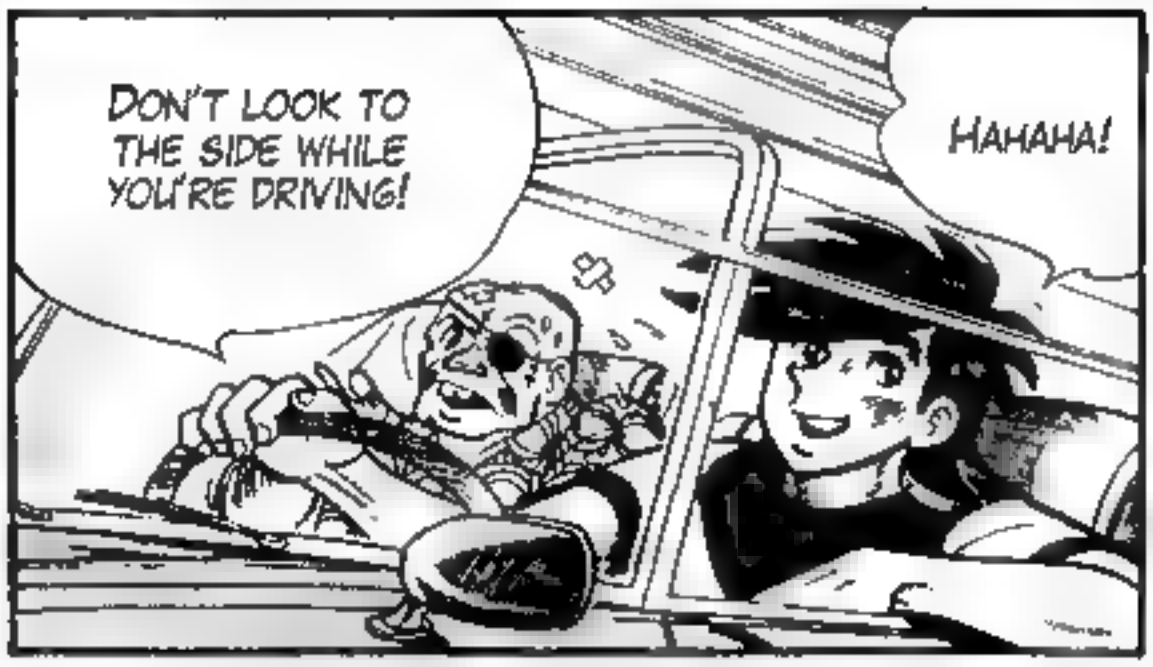
I... I'M COMING ALONG. I'M TOO WORRIED.

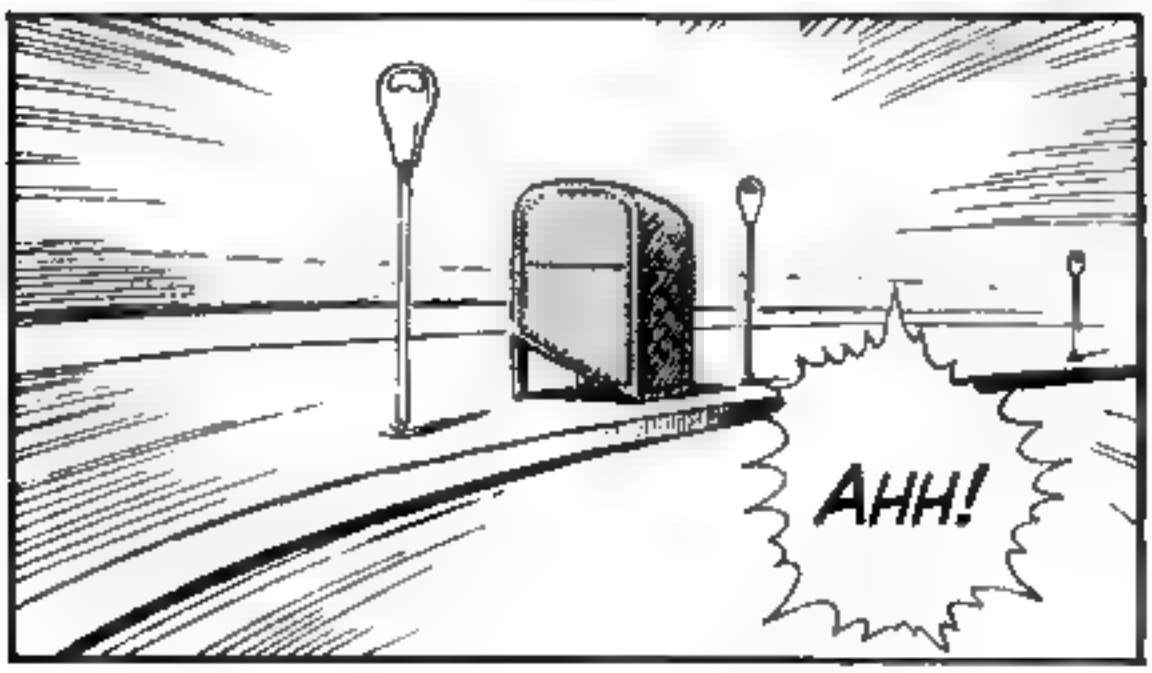
EVEN IF THIS IS A MERCURY COUGAR, WITH YOU IN THE PASSENGER SEAT, I FEEL LIKE I'M DRIVING SOME CHEAP HUNK OF JUNK.

SHUT UP.

WOOHOO!


HELLO!
ALOHA!


DON'T LOOK TO THE SIDE WHILE YOU'RE DRIVING!
HAHAHA!


AHH!


NICE DAY, RIGHT, OLD MAN?
THE WEATHER'S NICE AND THE ROADS ARE CLEAR.
D... DON'T DRIVE TOO FAST NOW...

AGHHHHHHH!

AHH-

ACK!

WOULD IT KILL YA TO BE A LITTLE MORE CAREFUL!?

OOPSY DAISY, MY ASS! THIS IS THE SECOND TIME!

Y-YOU'VE DONE IT NOW...

OOPSY DAISY.

THIS IS GONNA COST A PRETTY PENNY TO FIX.

IT'S A PRETTY EXPENSIVE CAR TO BOOT TOO.

WE'VE GOTTA GET TO THE GYM.

AH, IT'S ALMOST TIME.

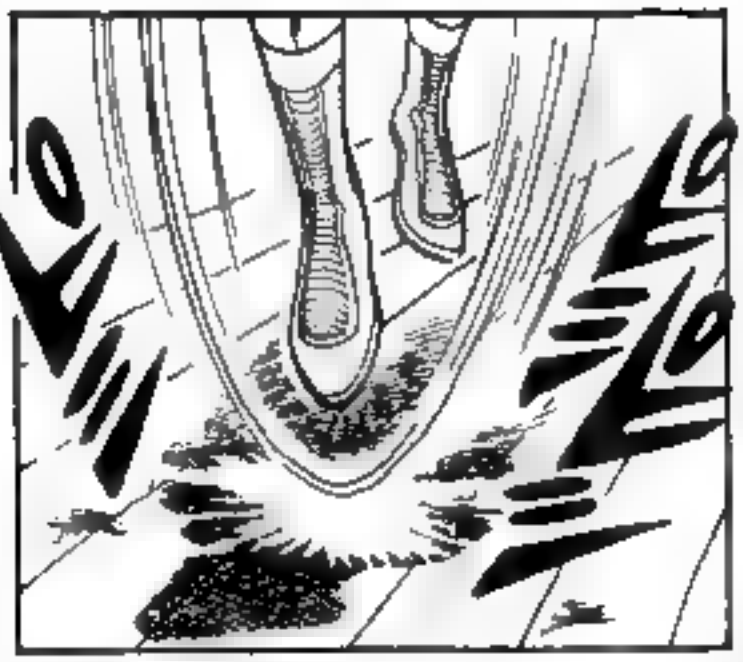

OH JEEZ...
STOP STANDIN' AROUND.
MOVE IT. NOTHIN' TO SEE HERE, FOLKS.
S- STOP! I SAID STOP, JOE!
STOP!
KEEP BACKING UP...


THIRD TIME'S THE CHARM, EH?
. . . .


I'LL PAY OUTTA MY OWN WALLET, 'KAY?
HAHA, DON'T BE LIKE THAT.

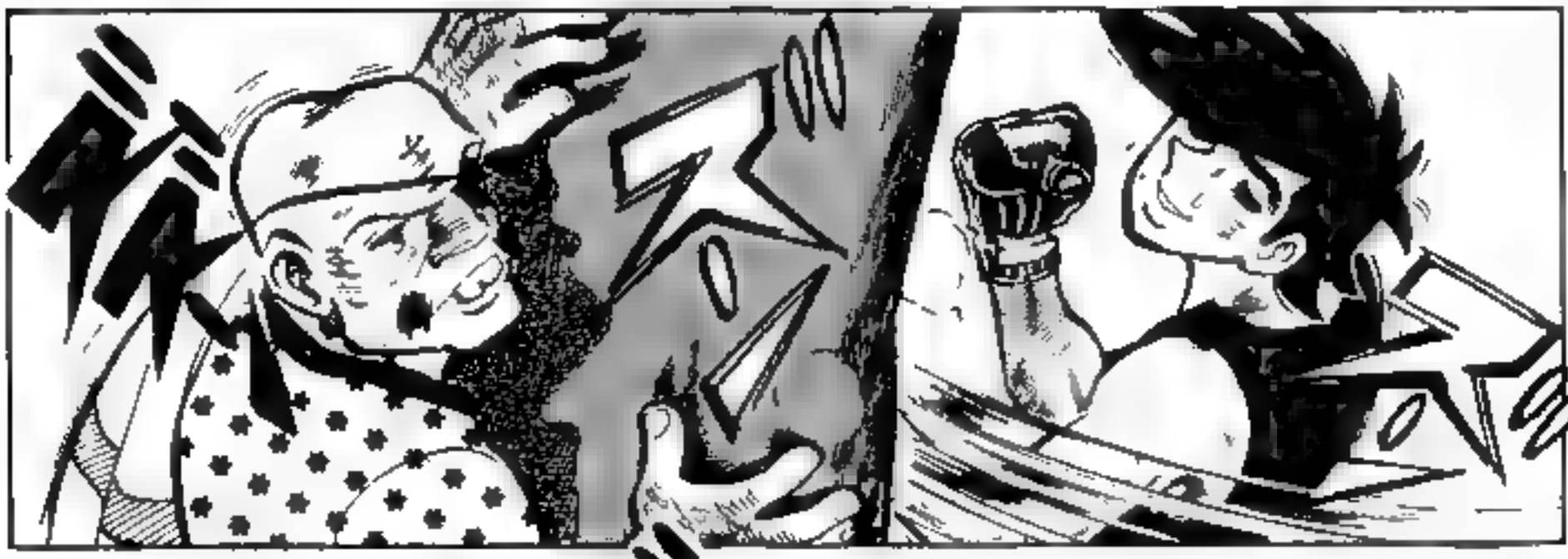

YEAH, I GET IT, I GET IT. IF YOU KEEP YELLING INTO MY EAR LIKE THAT, I MIGHT CRASH AGAIN, Y'KNOW.
IF YOU GOT INJURED, THE WHOLE TITLE-MATCH WOULD HAVE TO BE CANCELLED!
THIS ISN'T A MATTER OF MONEY!

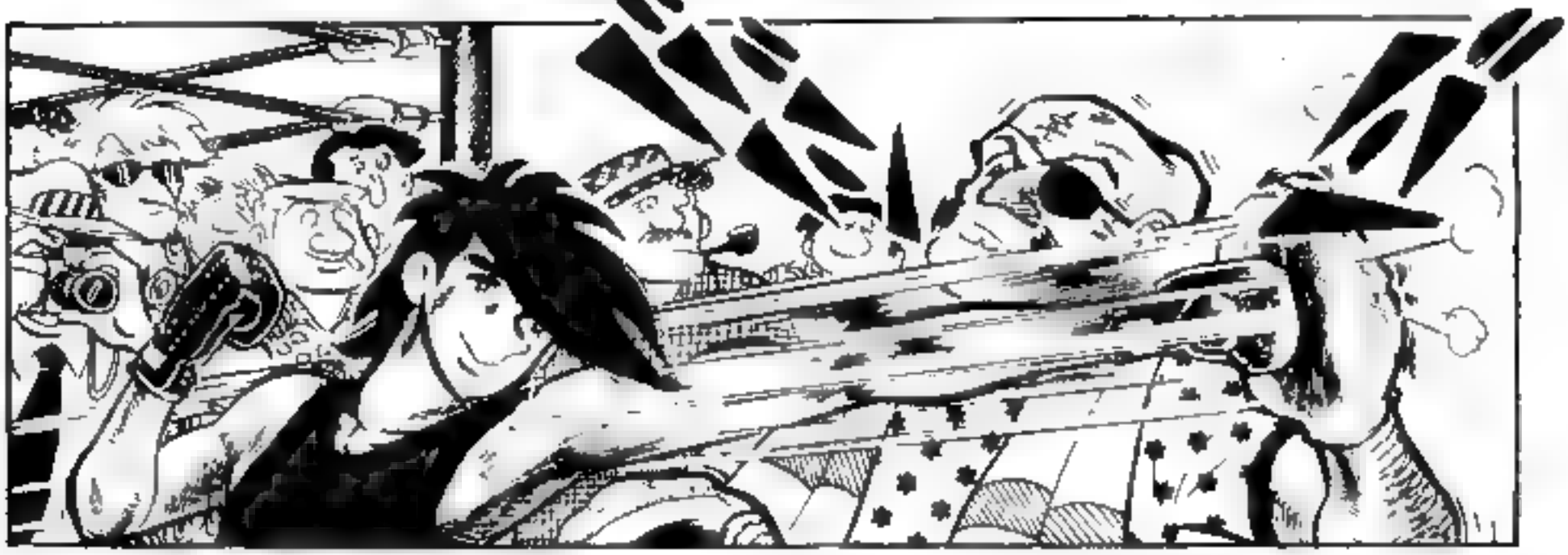

MAUI GYMNASIUM
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE ALL HERE ALREADY.
OHH, JOE YABUKI!

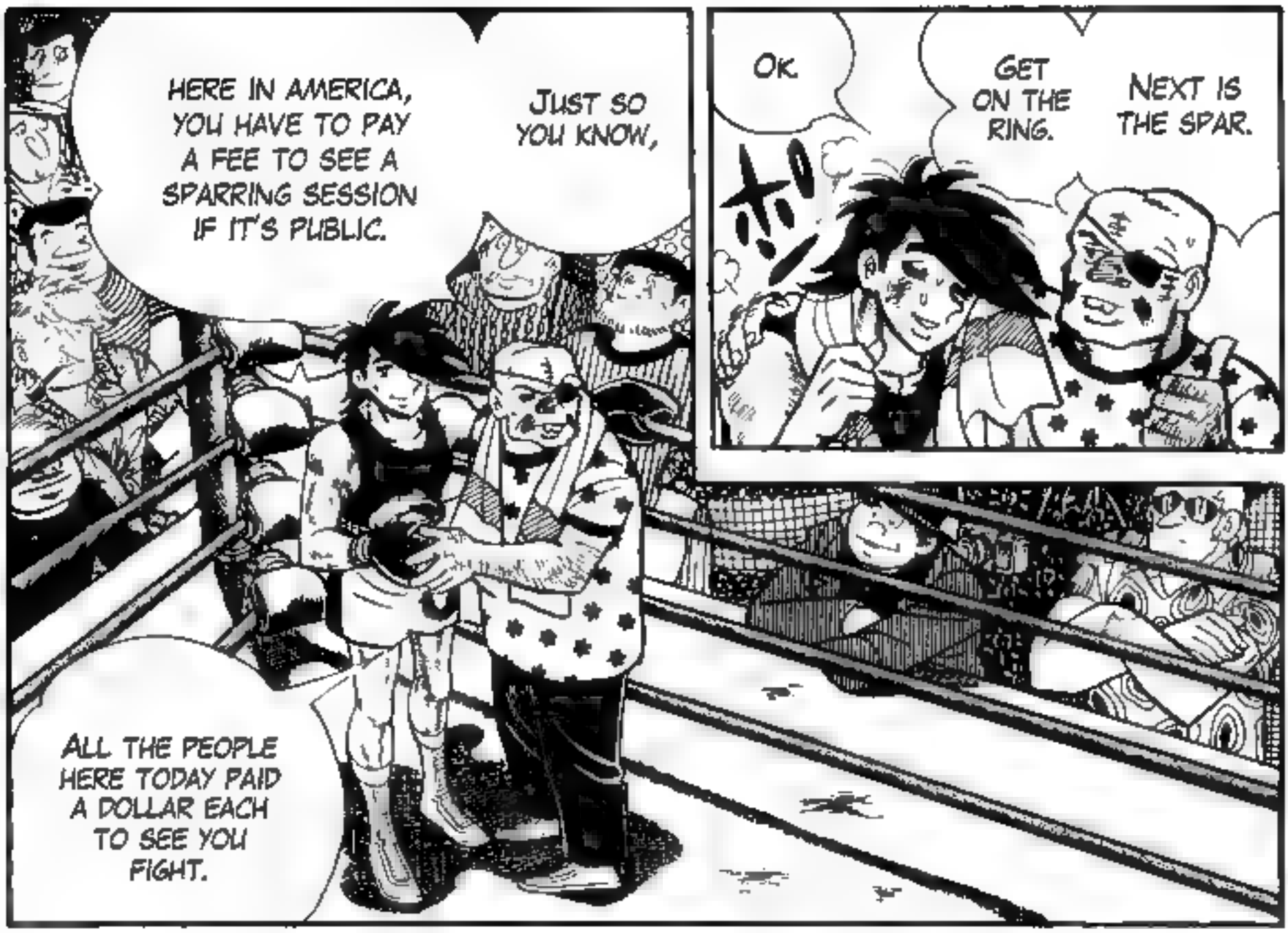





HI THERE!
FOR A GUY BASHED BY ALL THE PAPERS, I'M PRETTY POPULAR, AIN'T I?
J-JUST GET CHANGED QUICKLY.






HERE IN AMERICA, YOU HAVE TO PAY A FEE TO SEE A SPARRING SESSION IF IT'S PUBLIC.
JUST SO YOU KNOW,
ALL THE PEOPLE HERE TODAY PAID A DOLLAR EACH TO SEE YOU FIGHT.
OK.
GET ON THE RING.
NEXT IS THE SPAR.
WHO'S MY PARTNER?
IN ANY CASE,
I FEEL BAD FOR THEM.
A WHOLE DOLLAR TO SEE A LITTLE SPAR?
THIS IS CHIKO STAINBOARD.
LET ME INTRODUCE YOU.

SURE.

DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN.

HE'S A TOP-RATE BANTAMWEIGHT BOXER HERE IN HAWAII. HE BOASTS AN IMPRESSIVE KO-WIN RECORD.

NICE TO MEET YA!

HEY THERE!

HAHA...

OHH?

HAHAHAHA!

AHAHAHA!

スッ

WHOA-

WELL, THAT'LL ONLY MAKE IT EASIER ON MY HEART WHEN I PUMMEL YOU...

DING!

HEE HEE

HAHAHA

HMM

NOT TOO FRIENDLY, HUH.

HEH HEH

HEH

CLOSE.

SLAM

EVEN IF YOU WERE SPARRING AGAINST A NAMELESS BOXER, YOU SHOULDN'T PLAY AROUND AS LONG AS YOUR OPPONENT'S SERIOUS ABOUT IT!

W- WHAT'RE YOU PLAYING AROUND FOR!?

GET SERIOUS!

TRY AGAIN.

HAHA.

THEN THE LEAST I COULD DO IS GIVE THEM THEIR MONEY'S WORTH.

IF PEOPLE PAID TO SEE THIS SPAR,

STOP YELLING.

CAN A HORN-BLOWER,

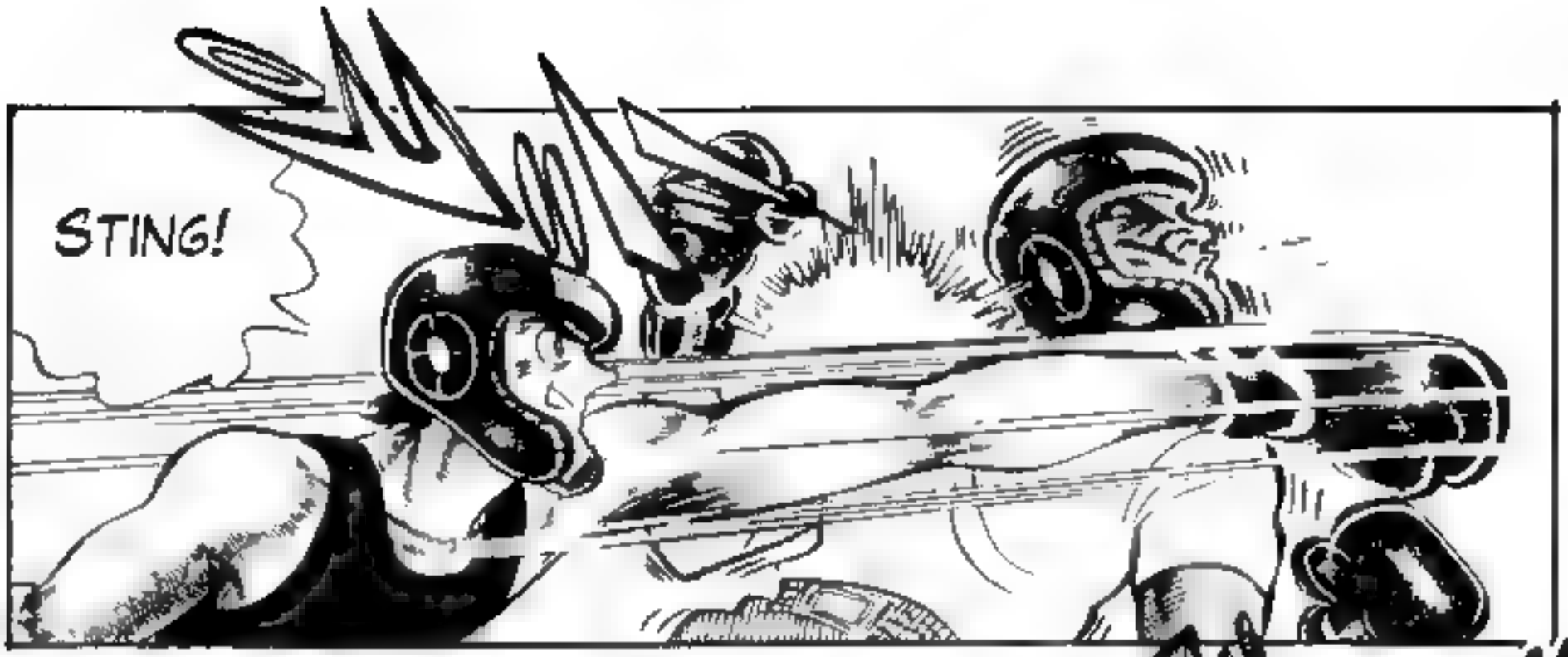
SAID I WAS JUST BLOWING MY OWN HORN, DIDN'T YOU...

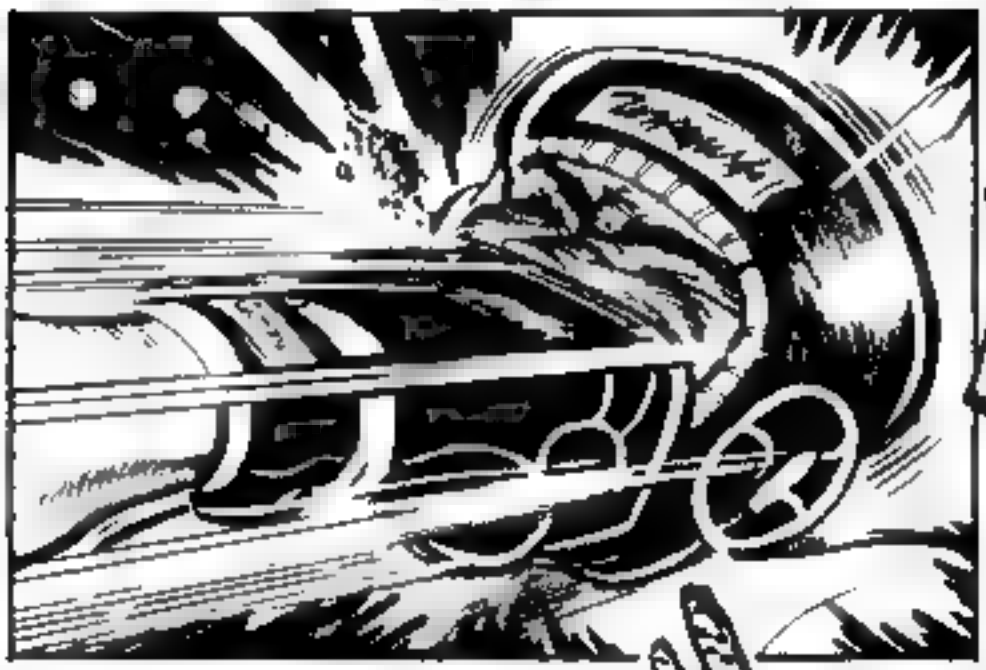
YOU REPORTERS,

EMULATE THE GREAT MUHAMMAD ALI LIKE THIS?

A BUT-TERFLY.

FLOAT LIKE,


STING!





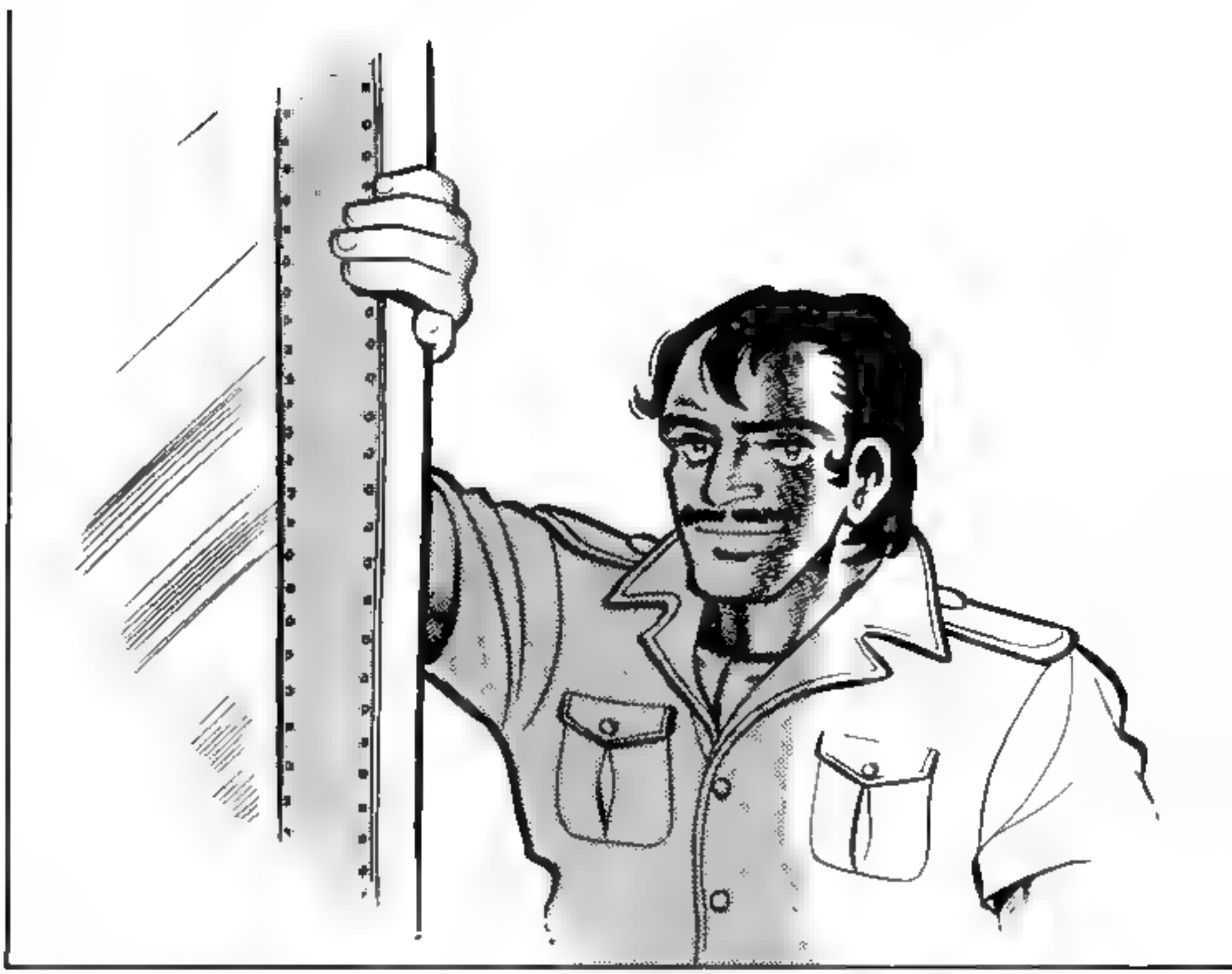

LIKE A BEE!

WHOAAA!

AMAZING...

HE COMPLETELY BLEW HIS PARTNER AWAY WITH 16OZ. SPARRING GLOVES...

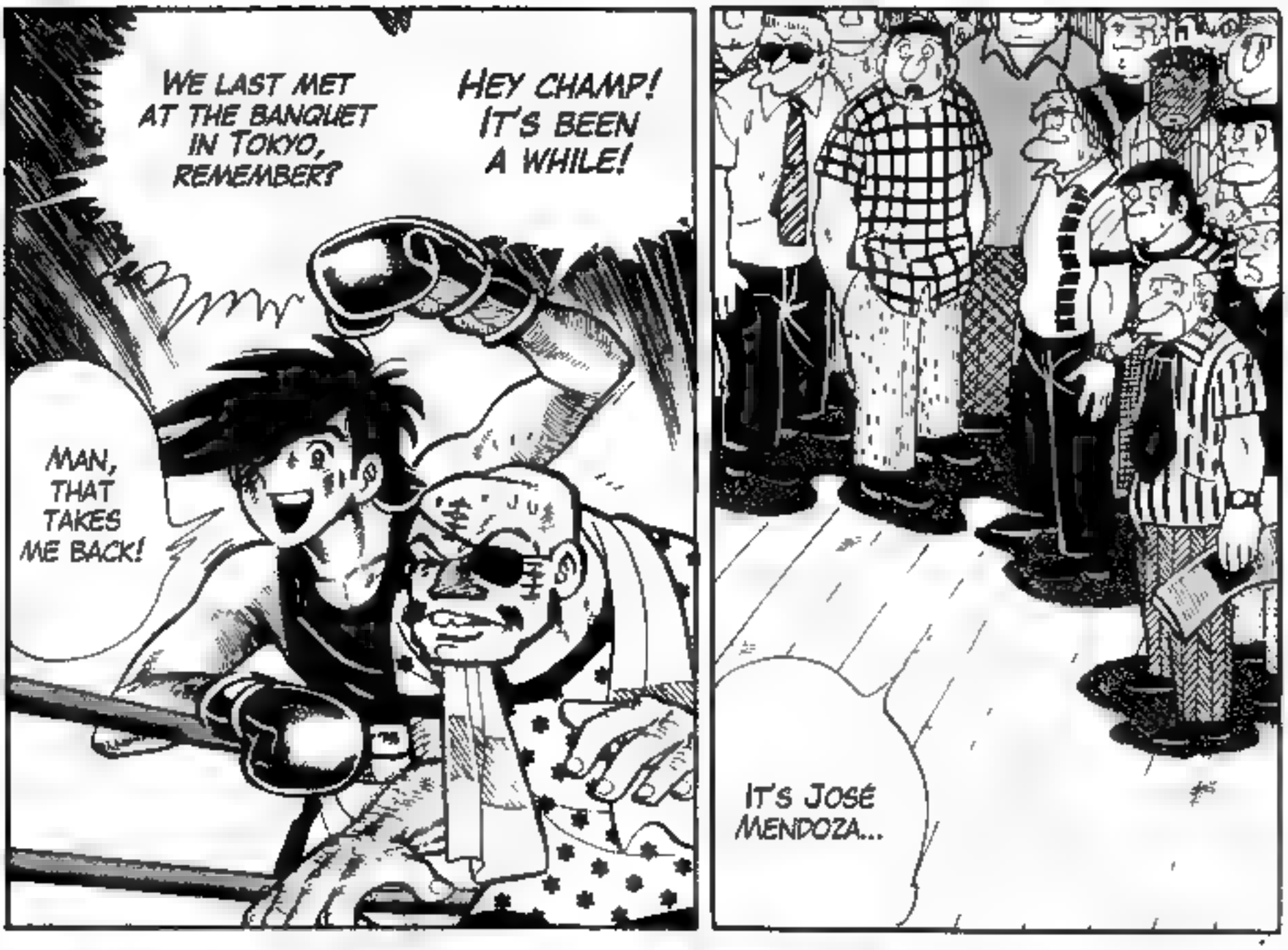
...



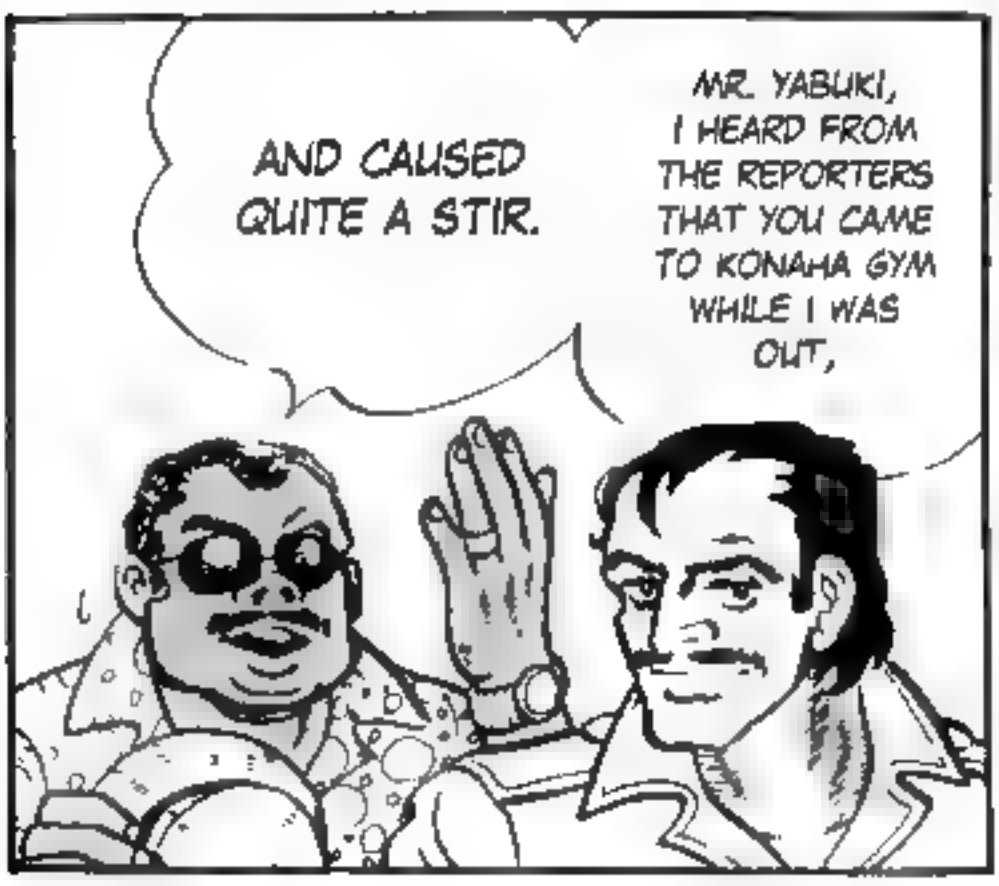

AH...


AHH-


IT'S THE CHAMP...


WE LAST MET AT THE BANQUET IN TOKYO, REMEMBER?
HEY CHAMP! IT'S BEEN A WHILE!
MAN, THAT TAKES ME BACK!
IT'S JOSÉ MENDOZA...
Interpreter.
ギシ
ギシ




AND CAUSED QUITE A STIR.
MR. YABUKI, I HEARD FROM THE REPORTERS THAT YOU CAME TO KONAHA GYM WHILE I WAS OUT,



THE WORLD CHAMPION IS HERE. WHY DON'T YOU GET OFF THE RING AND GREET HIM PROPERLY?

WITH STUFFY FORMAL GREETINGS BETWEEN US, MR. MENDOZA.

LET'S DO AWAY,

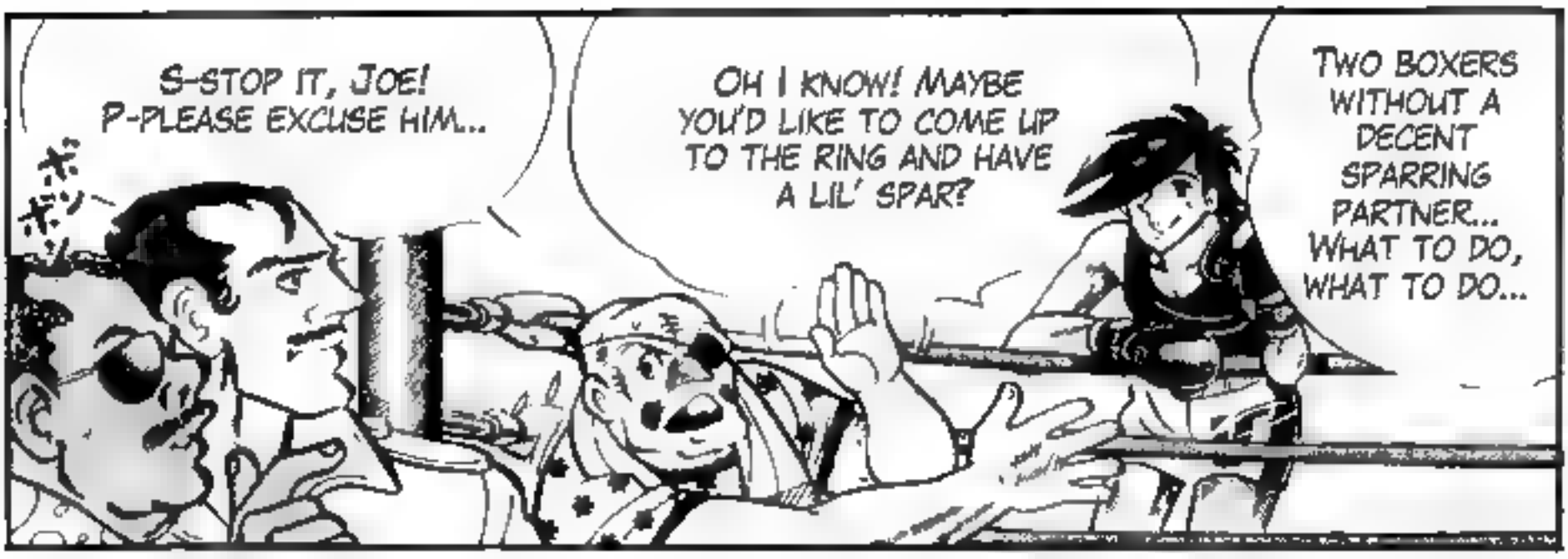
WE'RE TERRIBLY SORRY ABOUT THAT. MY BOY LOST HIS COOL FOR A MOMENT, YOU SEE...

O-OHH,

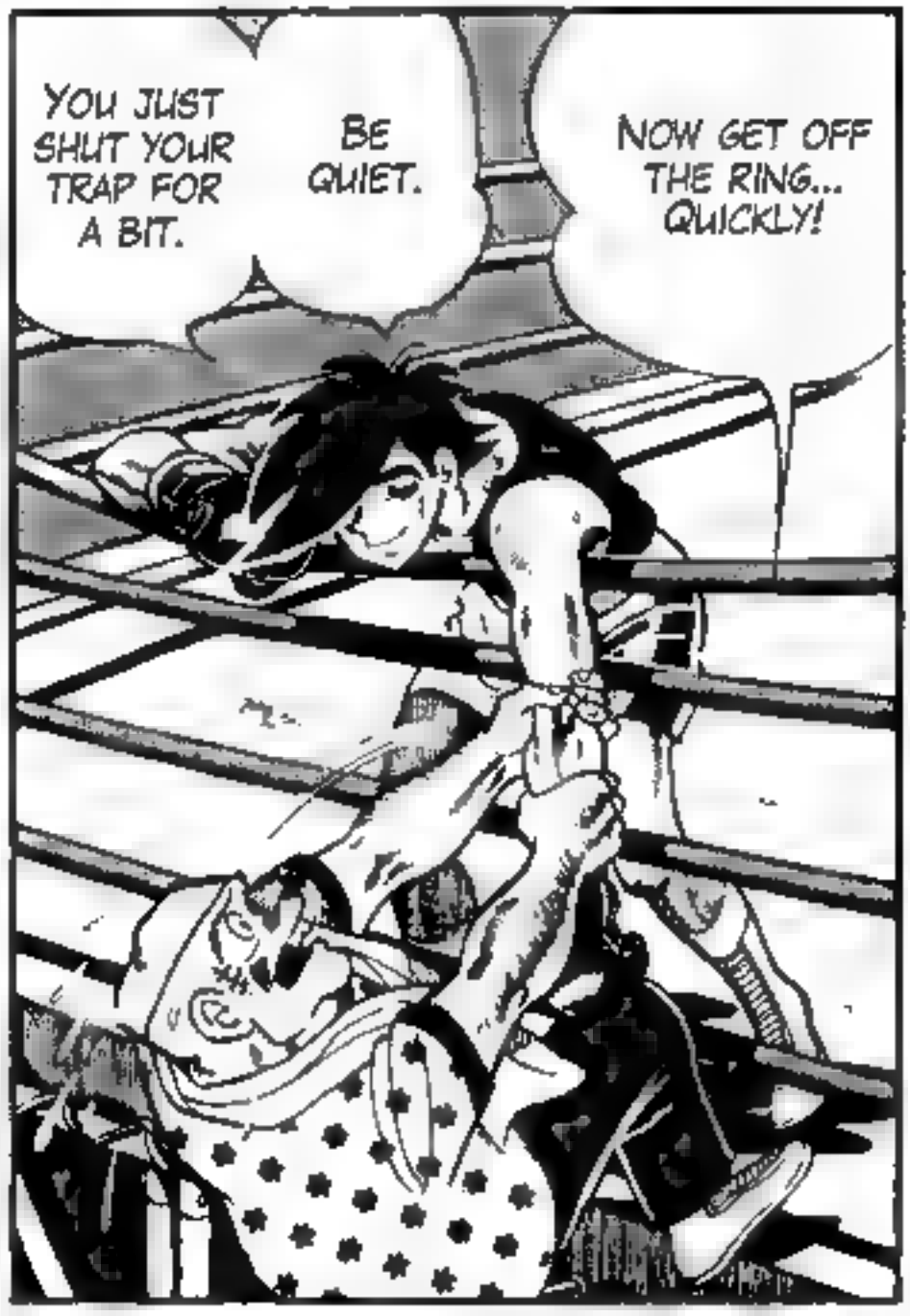
J-JOE,

I'VE RUN INTO THE SAME PROBLEM HERE.

I HEARD YOU COULDN'T GET A DECENT WORKOUT 'CAUSE YOUR SPARRING PARTNER GOT DESTROYED TOO QUICKLY.


S-STOP IT, JOE! P-PLEASE EXCUSE HIM...
ボン
OH I KNOW! MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO COME UP TO THE RING AND HAVE A LIL' SPAR?
TWO BOXERS WITHOUT A DECENT SPARRING PARTNER... WHAT TO DO, WHAT TO DO...


WHISPER WHISPER


YOU JUST SHUT YOUR TRAP FOR A BIT.
BE QUIET.
NOW GET OFF THE RING... QUICKLY!


SO HE'D RATHER NOT GET SWEATY AGAIN...
THE CHAMPION APPRECIATES THE OFFER BUT HE HAS ALREADY FINISHED HIS WORKOUT ROUTINE FOR THE DAY AND TAKEN A SHOWER,



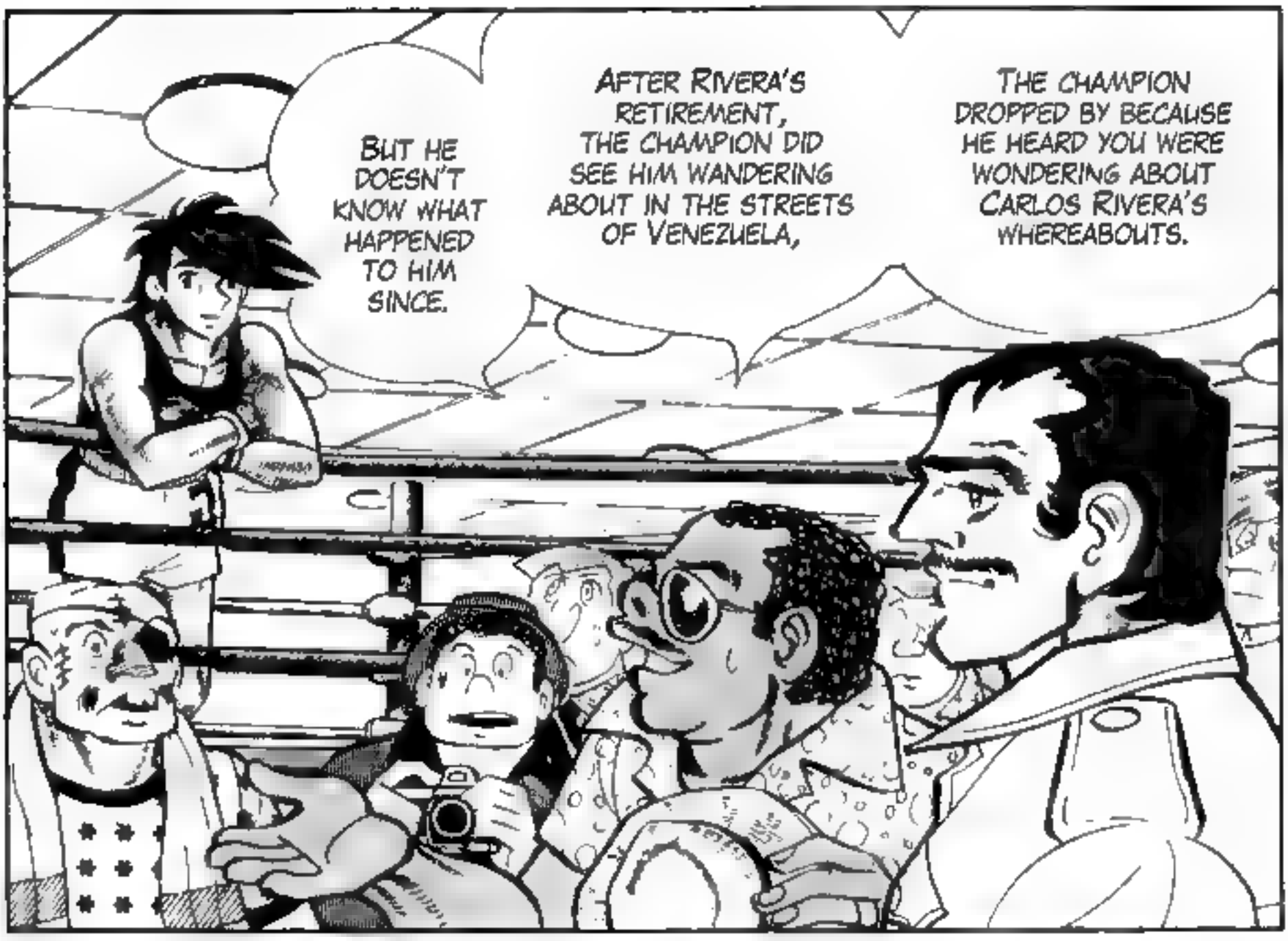

J-
JOE!
YOU'RE JUST AFRAID TO FIGHT ME, AREN'CHA?
HA, THAT'S SOME EXCUSE.


TRANSLATE EVERY LAST WORD I JUST SAID TO HIM, INTERPRETER!
YEAH,


I'M BEGGING YOU!
N-NO, NO, NO! PLEASE DON'T TRANSLATE HIS COMMENTS JUST NOW!


WHISPER WHISPER


...


BUT HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM SINCE.
AFTER RIVERA'S RETIREMENT, THE CHAMPION DID SEE HIM WANDERING ABOUT IN THE STREETS OF VENEZUELA,
THE CHAMPION DROPPED BY BECAUSE HE HEARD YOU WERE WONDERING ABOUT CARLOS RIVERA'S WHEREABOUTS.


GOOD BYE THEN.
THE CHAMPION DECIDED TO ACCEPT THE INVITATION TO YOUR UPCOMING MATCH.
ALSO,
SO HE WAS WANDERING ABOUT IN VENE-ZUELA...
I SEE...
WHAT, LEAVING ALREADY?




YOU'RE FREE RIGHT NOW, AREN'T YA?
OH COME ON! SPAR JUST ONE ROUND WITH ME!
J-JOE, YOU-


HE SAYS HE DOES NOT WISH TO INVOLVE HIMSELF WITH A MANNER-LESS YELLOW BRUTE.
THE CHAMPION EXPRESSES HIS DISAPPOINTMENT AT REALIZING THAT YOU, MR. YABUKI, AREN'T THE GREAT BOXER HE THOUGHT YOU WERE.



HEE HEE HEE

PFFT!

A MANNER-LESS YELLOW BRUTE, HE CALLED HIM...

AH-

AHAHAHA.

W-WHAT DID YOU...

HEH HEH

FUFUFU

STOP IT, JOE!

WAIT! WHAT, ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY NOW!?

LET GO OF ME!

EVERYONE! HELP ME STOP HIM!

GOOD BYE.

HEY CHAMP!

GET OFFA ME!

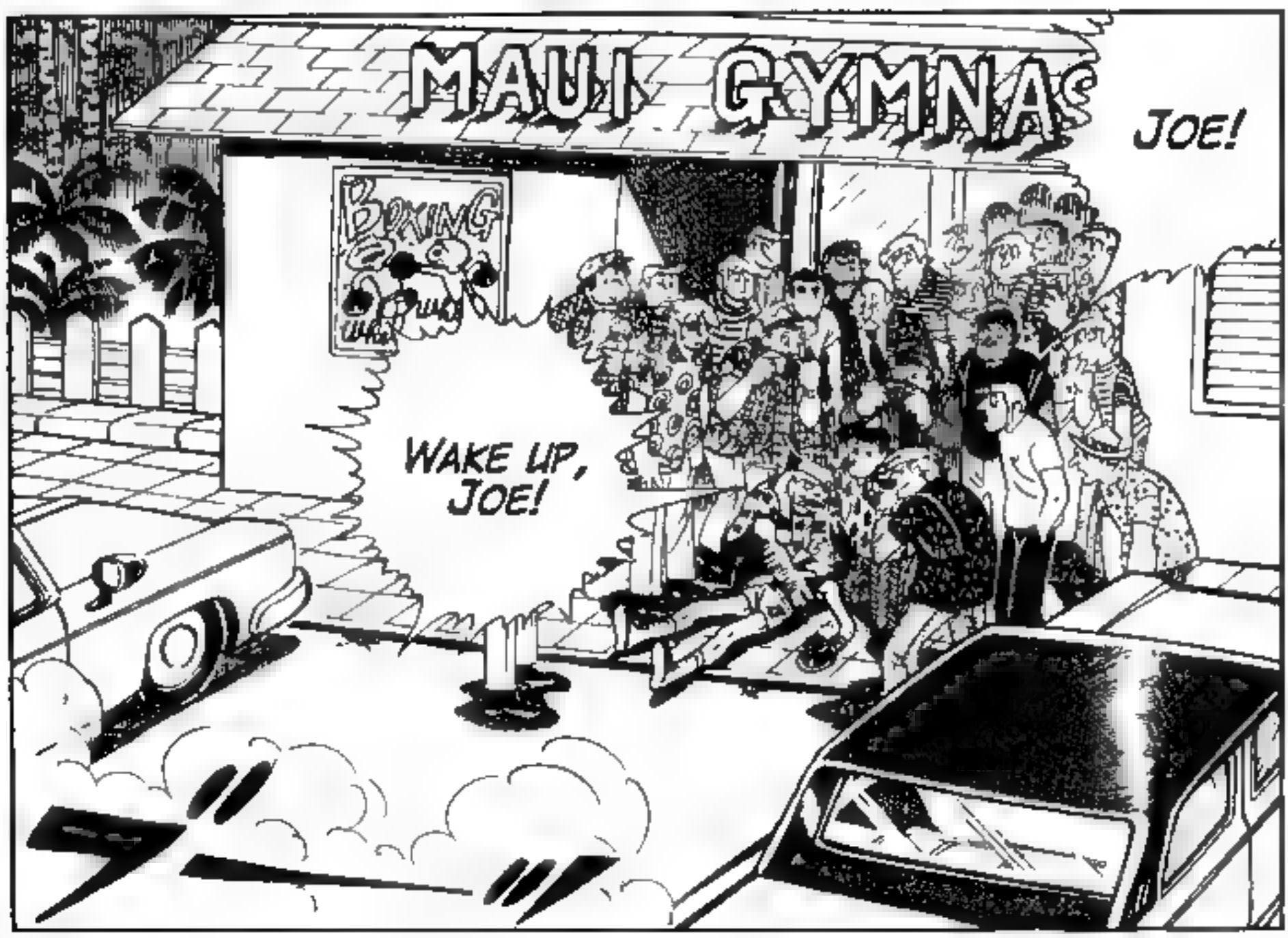
BUT LET ME JUST TELL YOU AGAIN THAT CARLOS RIVERA WAS-

I TOLD THE REPORTERS TO PASS ON THE MESSAGE ALREADY,


JOE...!
AHH!
BOXING
OHHH!




YELLOW SHEEP...!


MAUI GYMNAS
BOXING
WAKE UP, JOE!
JOE!

...

WHERE AM I?

DON'T YOU REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED AT THE GYM?

THE HOTEL.

FINALLY AWAKE?

HE STRUCK ME IN THE FACE WITH HIS BARE HANDS...

YEAH...

MENDOZA PUNCHED ME ALL OF A SUDDEN...

WHY DO YOU HAVE TO LOSE YOUR COOL WHEN IT INVOLVES THE CHAMP?

I'M SICK AND TIRED OF YOUR SHENANIGANS.

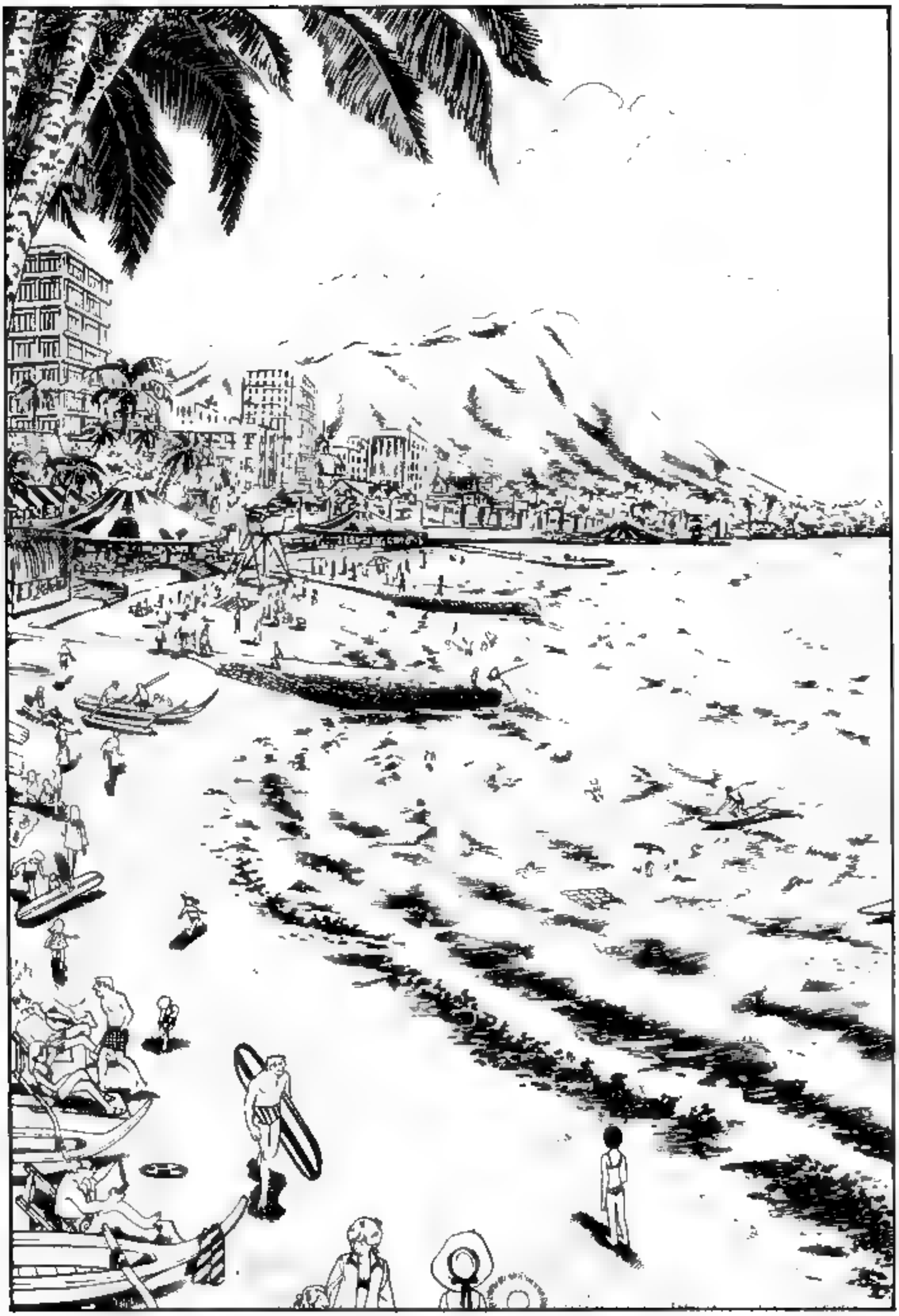
WELL?

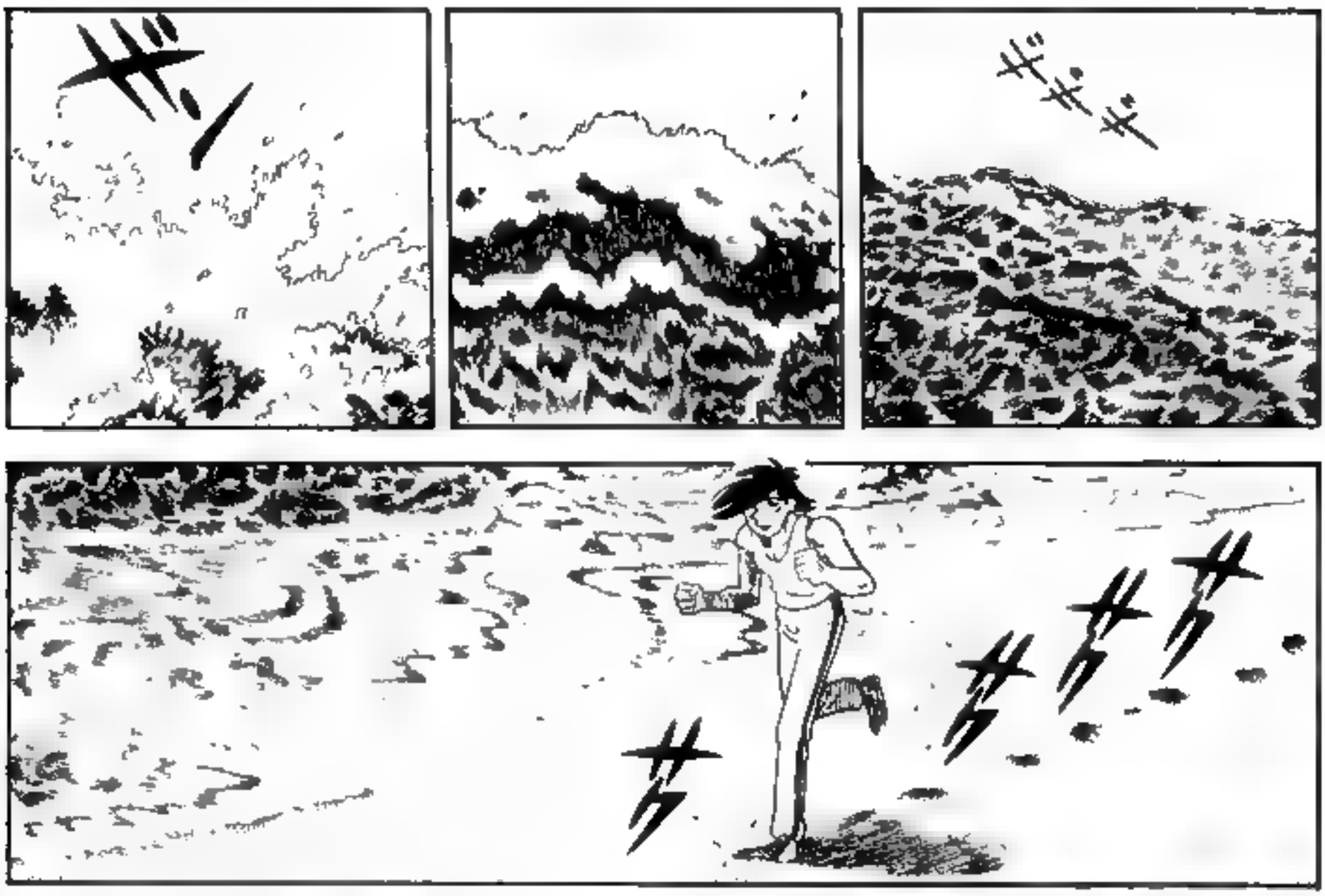
IT'S YOUR FAULT, REALLY.

FOR SURE...

I'LL RETURN THE FAVOUR SOON ENOUGH.

HMPH.




DON'T SLOW DOWN!
RUNNING ON SAND'S A GOOD WAY TO BUILD UP YOUR LEG MUSCLES!
KEEP RUNNIN', JOE!

HUFF HUFF
PANT
PANT
WHEEZE
IT'S HARD AS HELL FOR ME TO KEEP UP SINCE I CAN'T USE A BICYCLE...
BUT...

I'M GONNA KO PAPA!

HOHOHO...

HAHAHA...

FIGHT! FIGHT!

JOSÉ...

YABUKI...

IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

HELLO.

HUH?

WELL, WELL, AREN'T YOU LIVING IT UP IN HAWAII.

DRIVING RECKLESSLY, CRASHING YOUR RENTAL CAR WHEREVER YOU GO.

...

I HEARD ALL ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE BEEN UP TO FROM THE HAWAIIAN PAPERS.

YOU SEEM IN GOOD HEALTH.

Y-YOUKO...!

YELLING AT REPORTERS AND THE WORLD CHAMPION,

OH, RIGHT YOU DID...

I TOLD YOU THAT I'D BE TRAVELLING TO SOUTH AMERICA AND HAWAII THE LAST TIME WE SPOKE AT RIKIISHI'S GRAVE, DIDN'T I?

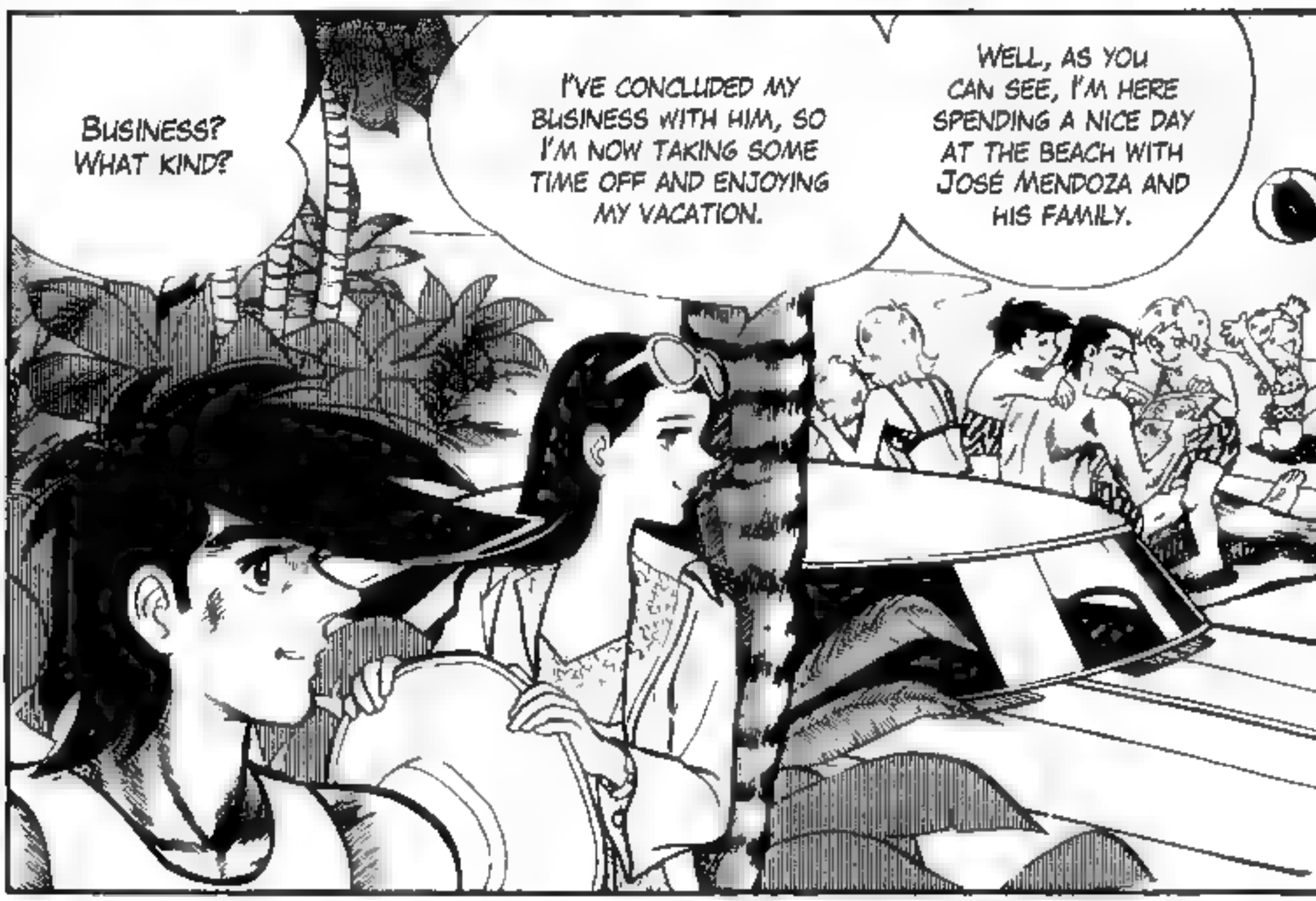
WHEN'D YOU COME TO HAWAII?

DIDN'T THINK I'D RUN INTO YOU HERE OF ALL PLACES... QUITE A COINCIDENCE.

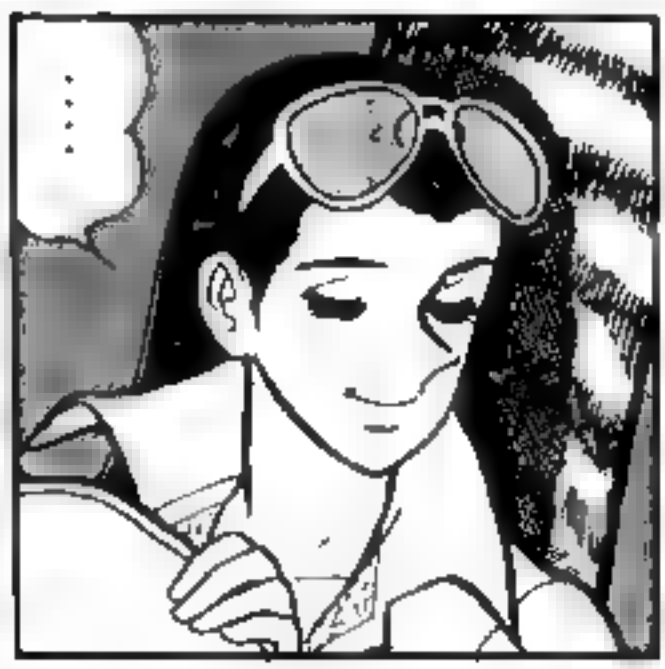
IT'S NO REAL COINCIDENCE.


I SHOULD ASK YOU THAT.
HA,


SO WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?


BUSINESS? WHAT KIND?
I'VE CONCLUDED MY BUSINESS WITH HIM, SO I'M NOW TAKING SOME TIME OFF AND ENJOYING MY VACATION.
WELL, AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M HERE SPENDING A NICE DAY AT THE BEACH WITH JOSÉ MENDOZA AND HIS FAMILY.


LET ME GUESS, YOU'RE NEEDLESSLY STICKING YOUR NECK INTO THE BOXING WORLD JUST TO HAVE FUN PLAYING MS. PROMOTER?
HA,


. . . .

MS. YOUKO?

THOUGH I SUPPOSE THAT'LL CHANGE DEPENDING ON HOW MUCH YOU NEED MY SERVICES...

HARSH WORDS.

I'LL BE RIGHT THERE, MRS. MENDOZA.

THIS WHOLE FAMILY ATMOSPHERE AIN'T MY THING.

NAH, IT'S FINE.

I'LL INTRODUCE YOU.

YOU'VE MET THE CHAMPION A FEW TIMES BEFORE BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME SEEING HIS FAMILY, RIGHT?

OH, THAT'S RIGHT,

I'M ACTUALLY IN THE MIDDLE OF MY RUN, SO I'LL SEE YA.

AND SEEING MENDOZA ALL CHEERFUL WITH HIS KIDS IS RATHER HARD TO WATCH.

PFFT!

ドサッ!

OOF!

AH, WATCH OUT!

WHO THE HELL THREW A DAMN COCONUT SHELL OUT HERE?

DAMMIT!

HAHA... YOU NEVER STOP TO LOOK WHERE YOU'RE GOING, DO YOU, YABUKI? ALWAYS IN A RUSH...

WHO WAS THAT?

OH, THAT WAS JOE YABUKI.

I'LL INTRODUCE HIM TO YOU NEXT TIME.

OH, YOU KNOW OF HIM, MRS. MENDOZA?

JOE YABUKI? YOU MEAN THE PACIFIC CHAMPION?

...

COME ON, KIDS. LET'S GO OUT AND PLAY IN THE SEA ONE MORE TIME!

HOHOHO...

I'LL GET YOU BACK, CHELSEA!

HEE HEE!

KYAAA!

HELP ME!

AHAHAHA!

KYAAA!

I'VE GOT AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE DOCTOR.

WELL THEN... WE SHOULD GET GOING.

MR. MENDOZA'S QUITE ATTENTIVE FOR HIS HEALTH, ISN'T HE?

THAT'S VERY ADMIRABLE.

NO ME!

DAD, CARRY ME!

HAHA, I'LL CARRY ALL OF YOU!

IT'S FOR THE SAKE OF MY FAMILY I DEARLY LOVE AS WELL!

I DON'T WANT TO WALK DOWN THAT SAME TRAGIC PATH TO BEING REDUCED TO A CRIPPLED HUSK IF I CAN AT ALL HELP IT.

I'VE SEEN A LOT OF GOOD FRIENDS AND MENTORS EXCHANGE THEIR WELL-BEING FOR FAME AND FORTUNE...

DR. KEYNISKY OF UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S FOREMOST AUTHORITIES CONCERNING THE PHYSICAL FITNESS TO BOXERS.

IF YOU'D LIKE, YOU CAN COME ALONG WITH US TO THE DOCTOR.

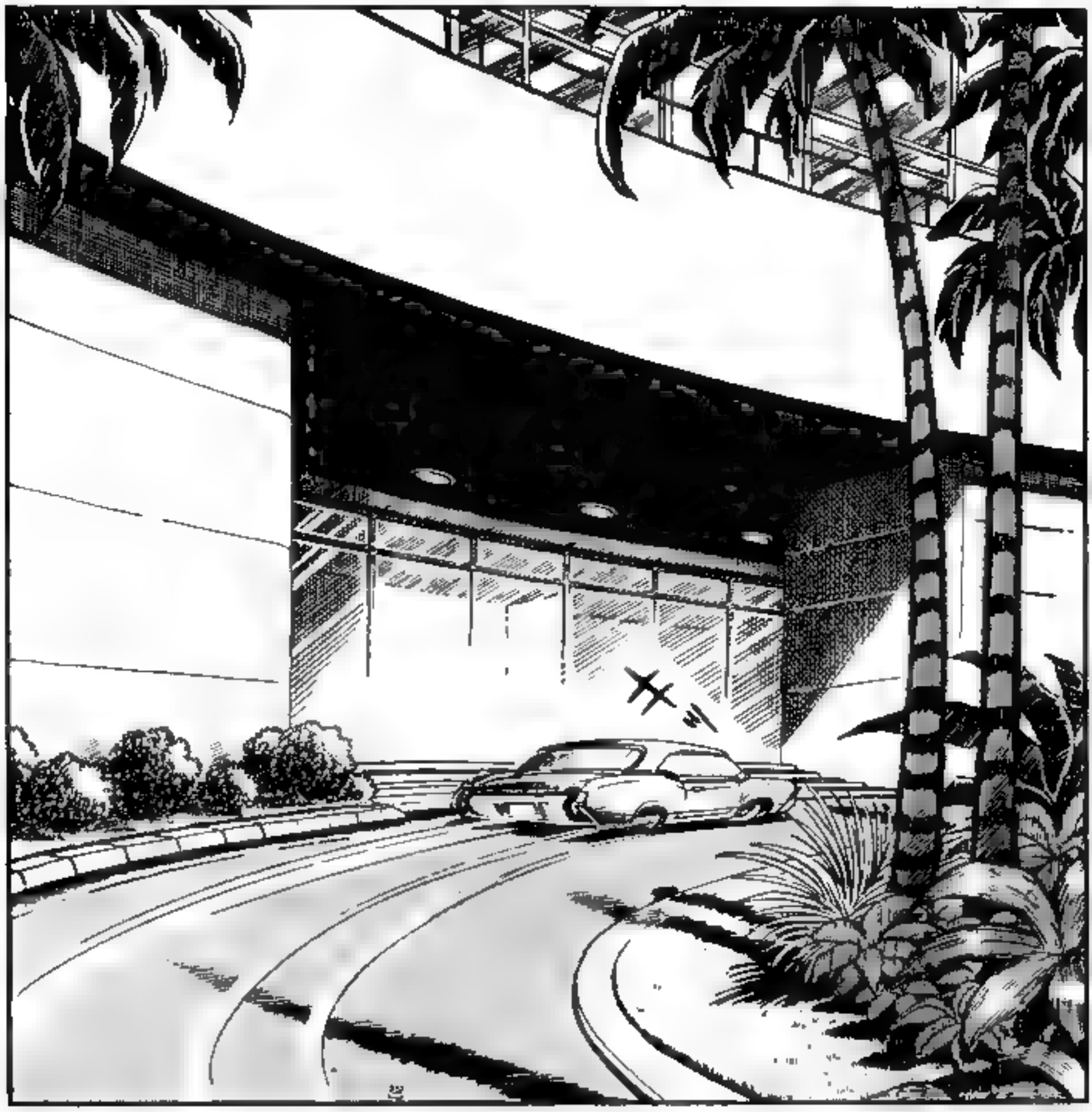
I GUESS I'LL TAG ALONG AS YOUR BABYSITTER FOR THE DAY.

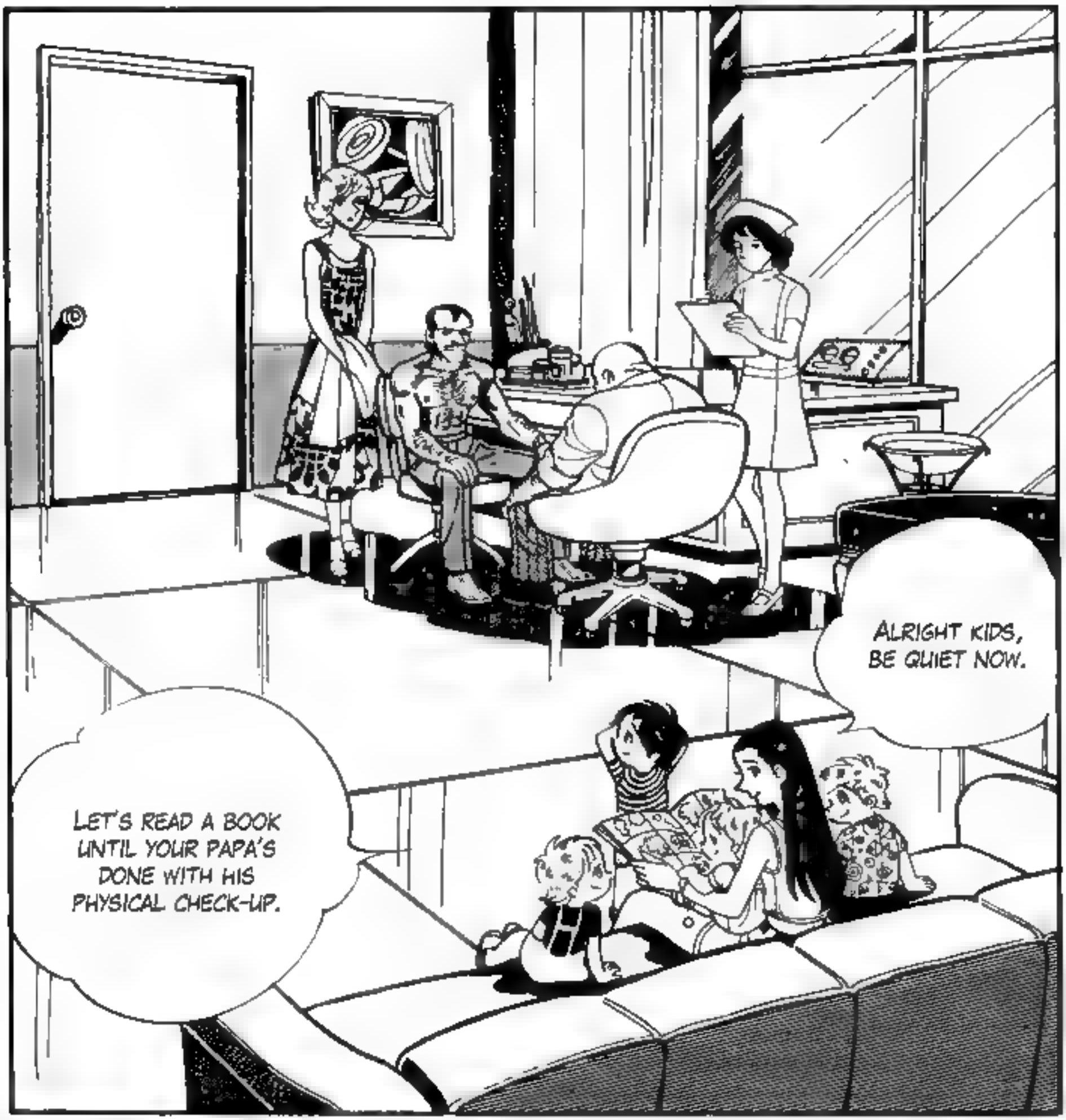
THANK YOU.

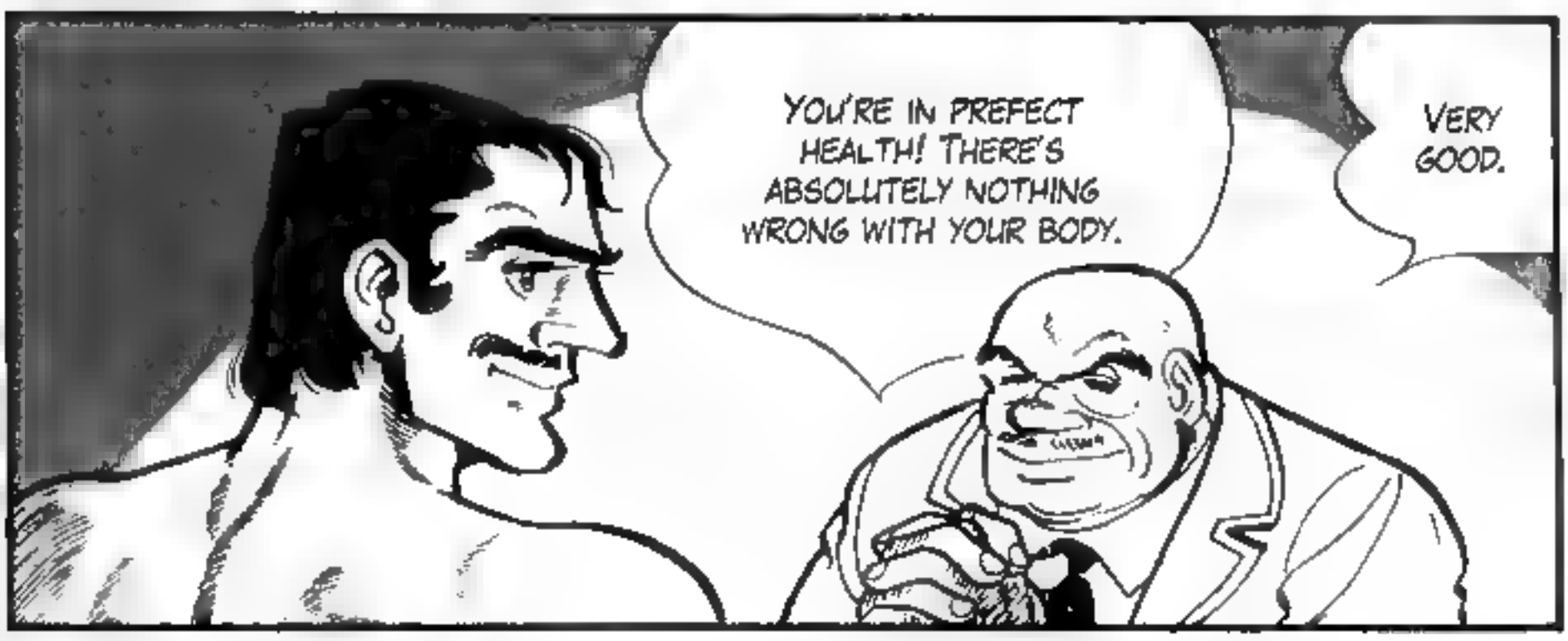
A BOXING PROMOTER AND A GYM OWNER LIKE YOU WOULD LEARN MUCH FROM GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH HIM.

I INSIST YOU COME.






ALRIGHT KIDS, BE QUIET NOW.
LET'S READ A BOOK UNTIL YOUR PAPA'S DONE WITH HIS PHYSICAL CHECK-UP.


YOU'RE IN PREFECT HEALTH! THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NOTHING WRONG WITH YOUR BODY.
VERY GOOD.

THANK YOU, DR. KEYNISKY.

YOU HAVE MY SINCEREST RESPECT.

TO THINK A WORLD CHAMPION WHO CONSTANTLY HAS TO FIGHT OFF UP AND COMING CHALLENGERS WOULD BE IN SUCH FINE HEALTH...

YOU REALLY ARE A PHENOMENAL BOXER.

ISN'T THAT SWELL, DEAR...

DESPITE WHAT I'VE SAID, YOU MUST NOT LET YOUR GUARD DOWN JUST BECAUSE YOUR HUSBAND COMES PERIODICALLY TO HAWAII TO GET HIS HEALTH CHECKED BY ME.

MRS. MENDOZA,

カチャリ

WELL THEN, LET'S JUST TAKE A QUICK BLOOD TEST OVER IN THE NEXT ROOM.

SURE.

YOU MUST PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO ANY POSSIBLE ODDITIES IN MENDOZA'S EVERYDAY ROUTINE, NO MATTER HOW TRIFLING ... THEY MAY SEEM.

YES, IT'S A NEURODEGENERATIVE CONDITION IN WHICH A BOXER WHO'S TAKEN TOO MANY HITS TO THE HEAD WILL ACT AS IF HE'S "DRUNK."

PUNCH-DRUNK SYNDROME?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, DOCTOR?

IT'S QUITE A THREATENING MEDICAL CONDITION.

AFTER MANY YEARS OF RESEARCH, I'VE COME TO BELIEVE EARLY SYMPTOMS FOR PUNCH-DRUNKENNESS ARE DIFFICULT TO DETECT IN BOXERS WHO'RE NERVOUS OR HAVE A TENSE MENTAL STATE.

IT'S SOMETHING THAT CAN AFFECT THE WHOLE BODY BEFORE THE MAN HIMSELF CAN REALIZE IT.

THE MOST DANGEROUS THING TO LOOK OUT FOR WOULD BE PUNCH-DRUNK SYNDROME.

PUNCH-DRUNK SYMPTOMS CAN BE HARD FOR US DOCTORS TO DETECT, BUT CLOSE FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERS CAN USUALLY SENSE THAT SOMETHING IS OFF IF THE MAN HIMSELF ACTUALLY IS AFFLICTED WITH IT.

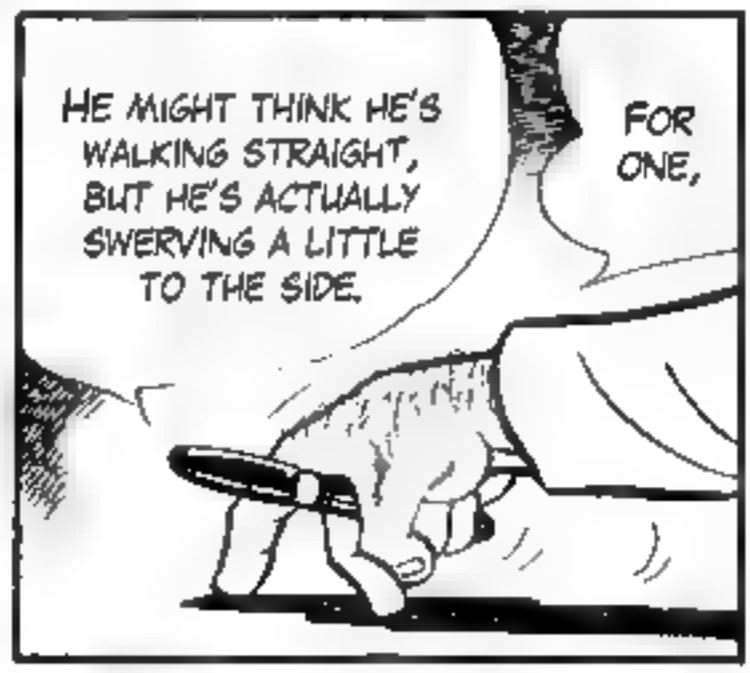
HAHAHA! OH NO, NO, NO. THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT YOUR HUSBAND'S HEALTH AS OF NOW.

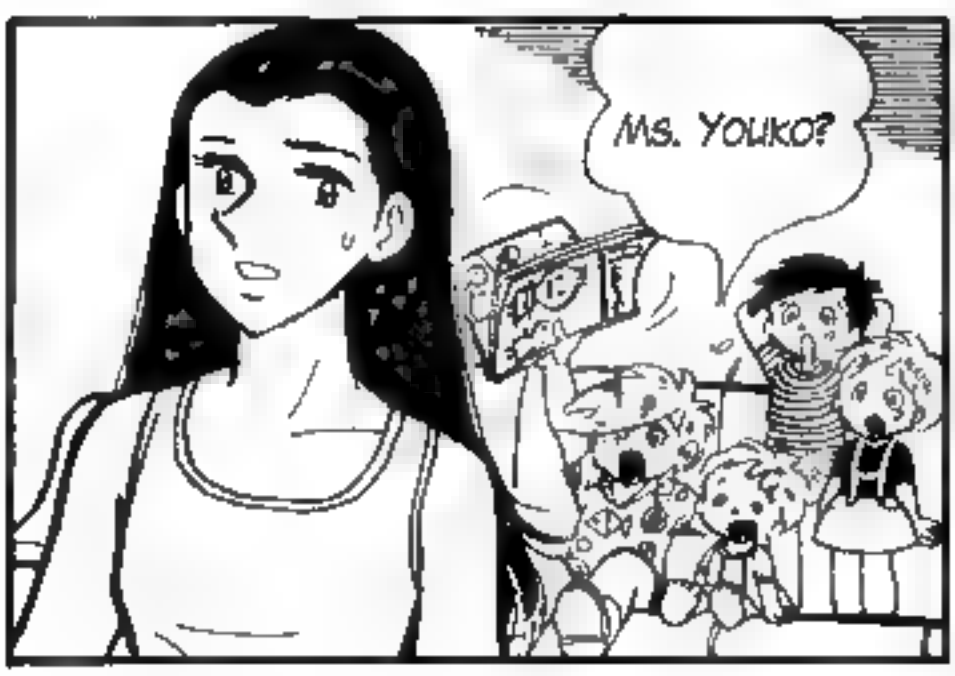
T-THEN ARE YOU SUGGESTING THAT... BECAUSE MY HUSBAND HAS TO CONSTANTLY DEFEND HIS WORLD-TITLE, HIS TENSE MENTAL STATE IS HIDING SYMPTOMS FOR-

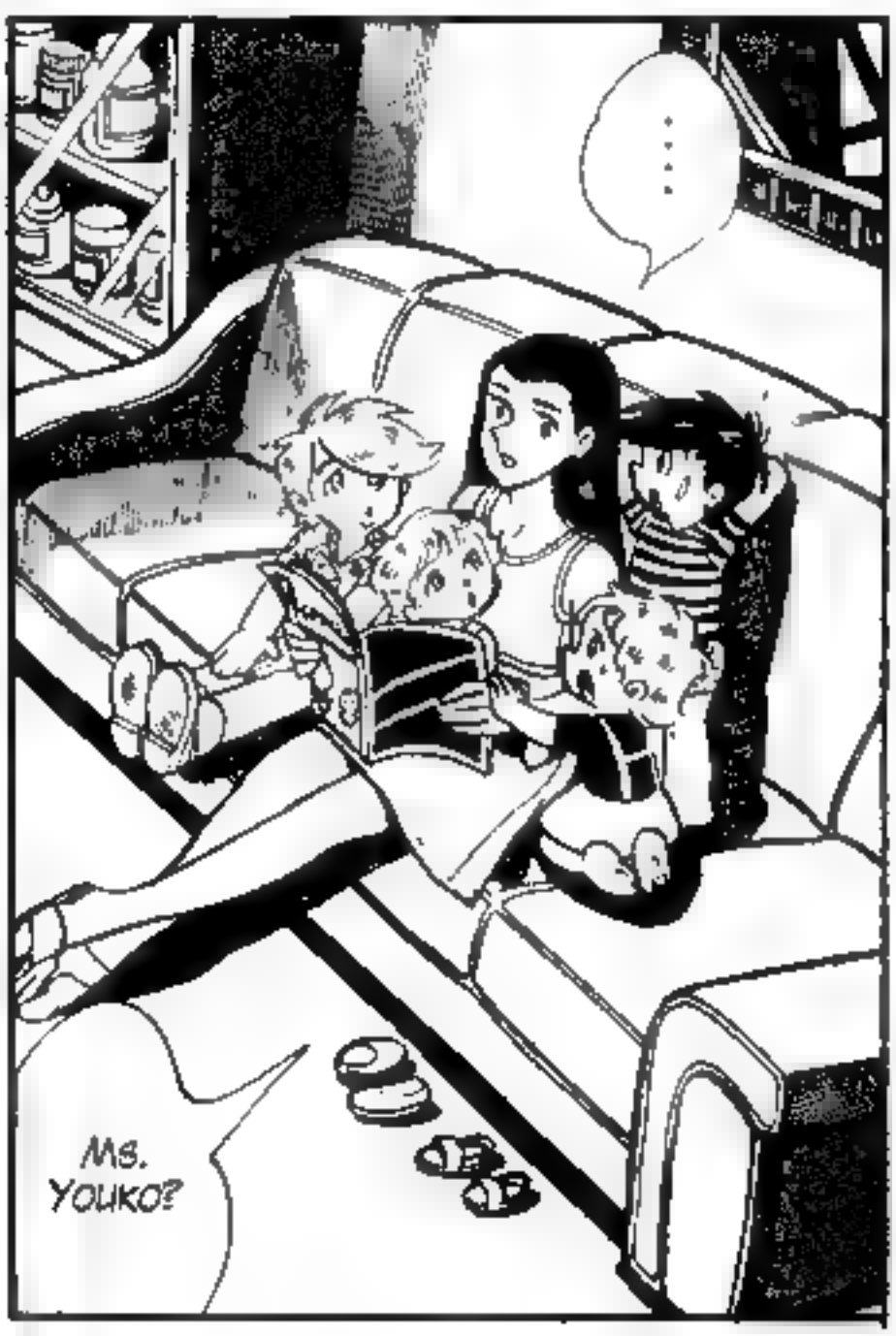
IT CAN SHOW UP AS VERY FAINT QUIRKS OR ODD INCIDENTS...


WELL, THERE'RE LOTS OF EXAMPLES...
LIKE WHAT, DOCTOR?


OR PERHAPS HE MIGHT TRIP UP EASILY ON SOMETHING VERY SMALL...
HMM...


HE MIGHT THINK HE'S WALKING STRAIGHT, BUT HE'S ACTUALLY SWERVING A LITTLE TO THE SIDE.
FOR ONE,


MS. YOUKO?


MS. YOUKO?


DR. KEYNISKY!

YES, I BELIEVE A PUNCH-DRUNK PERSON WOULD BE IMPAIRED IN HIS ABILITY TO DRIVE.

FOR INSTANCE, HE MAY FIND IT HARD TO DRIVE STRAIGHT AND THEREBY CRASH INTO THINGS.

ABOUT PUNCH-DRUNKEN-NESS...

ARE THERE ANY SYMPTOMS THAT MIGHT SHOW UP WHEN ONE IS DRIVING...?

BOXING

ズン

I SEE... SO YOUKO'S HERE IN HAWAII RIGHT NOW, IS SHE?

I WONDER WHAT HER BUSINESS WITH MENDOZA WAS?

YEAH, BUT...

PUT YOUR HIPS INTO YOUR PUNCHES.

WHAT'S WRONG, JOE?

WITH HIS WIFE AND KIDS AT THE BEACH EARLIER TODAY

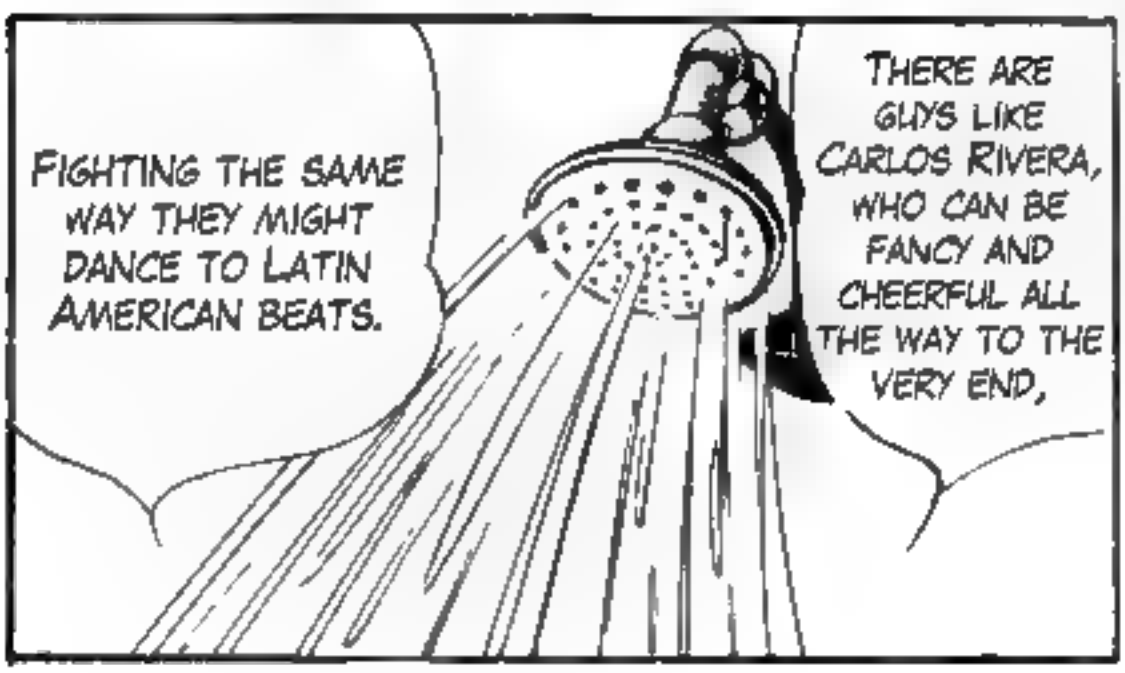
DAMN IT! I CAN'T FOCUS AFTER SEEING MENDOZA BEING ALL MR. FAMILY-MAN,

I JUST CAN'T GET IN MY GROOVE RIGHT NOW!

I'M CALLING IT A DAY.






FIGHTING THE SAME WAY THEY MIGHT DANCE TO LATIN AMERICAN BEATS.
THERE ARE GUYS LIKE CARLOS RIVERA, WHO CAN BE FANCY AND CHEERFUL ALL THE WAY TO THE VERY END,



WHO FIGHT LIKE A COMPUTER.

AND THERE ARE EVEN COLD-AS-ICE-TYPES LIKE KIM YONG-BI,

AND SOFT-SPOKEN.

BOXING

TERSE.

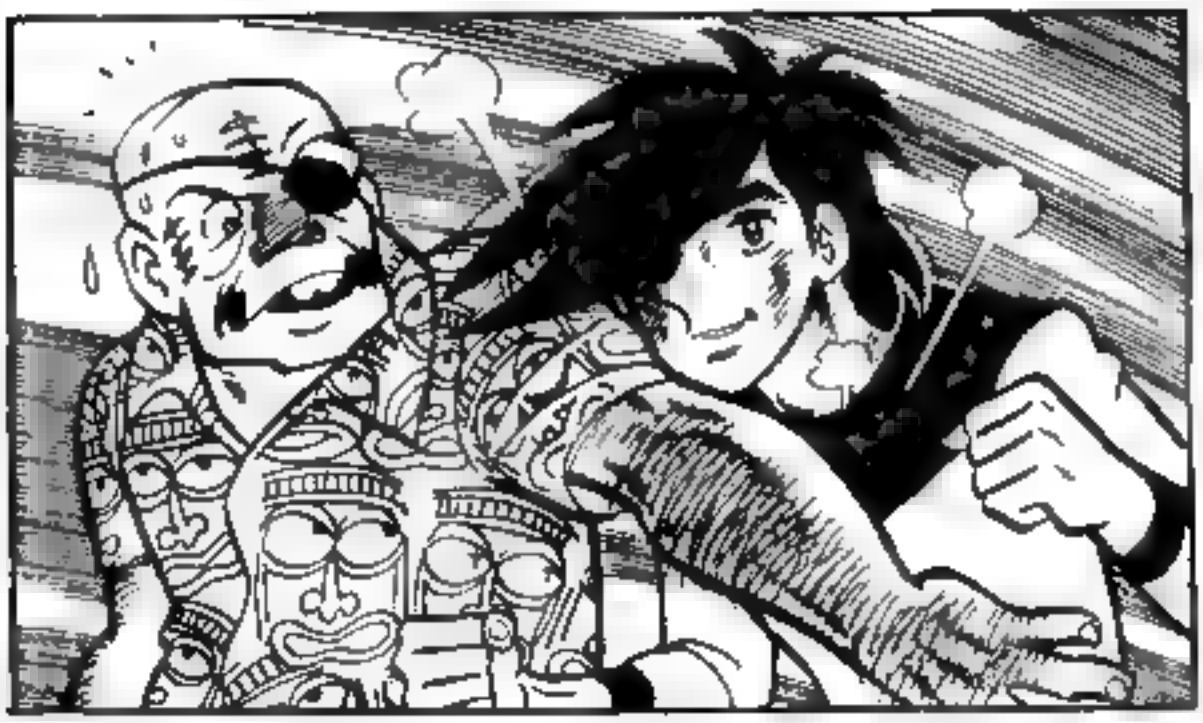
BUT THIS ONE'S DIFFERENT FROM ALL OF 'EM..

AND HE EVEN PUTS UP A PERFECT FAMILY-MAN ACT!

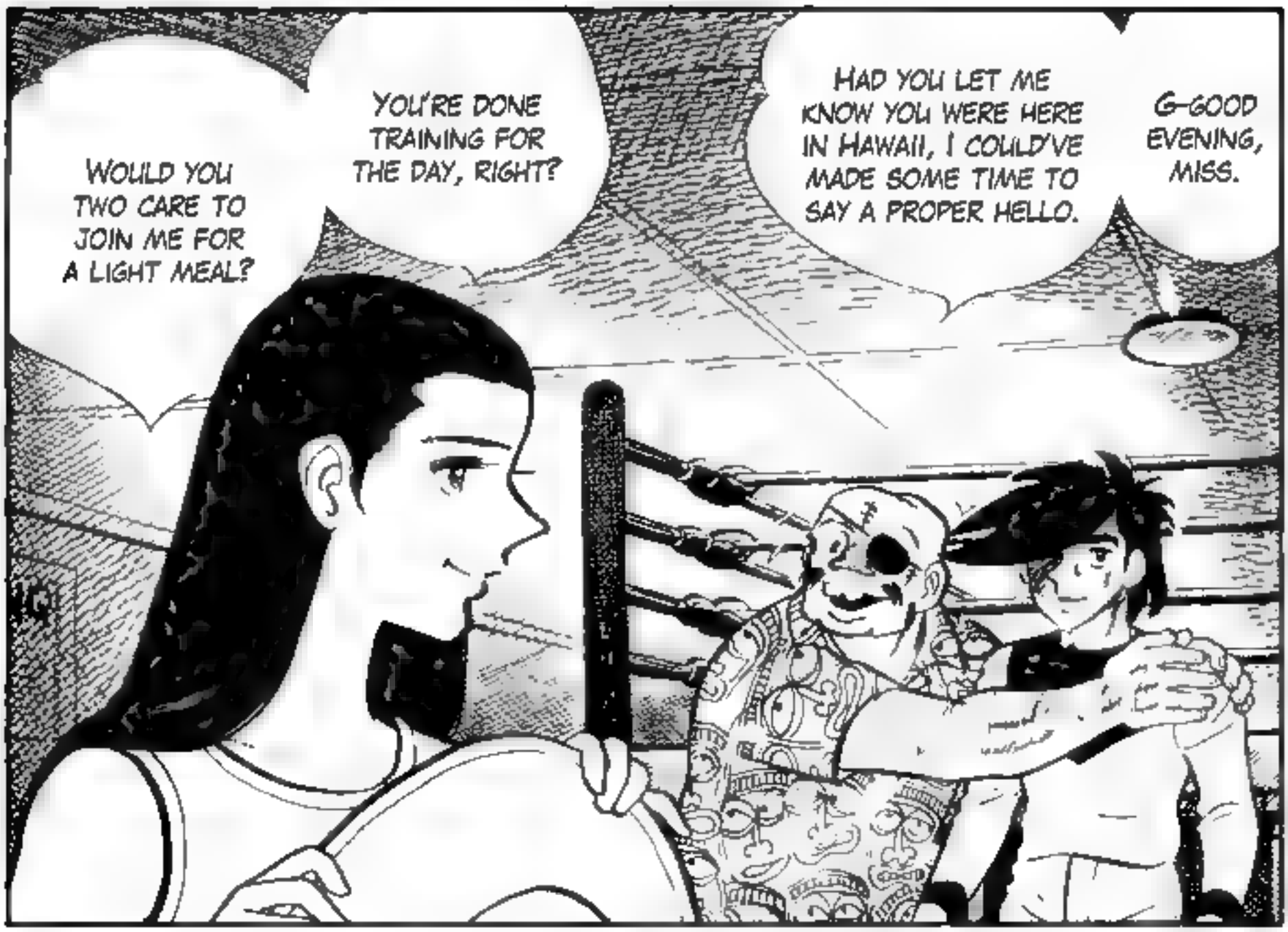
JEEZ LOUISE...

A WORLD CHAMPION STRONG ENOUGH TO SEND THE PACIFIC CHAMPION TO SLEEP WITH A SINGLE PUNCH WHEN ANNOYED... AM I RIGHT?

AND YET IT'S AN UNDENIABLE FACT THAT THAT TERSE, SOFT-SPOKEN FAMILY-MAN IS THE WORLD CHAMPION.






WOULD YOU TWO CARE TO JOIN ME FOR A LIGHT MEAL?
YOU'RE DONE TRAINING FOR THE DAY, RIGHT?
HAD YOU LET ME KNOW YOU WERE HERE IN HAWAII, I COULD'VE MADE SOME TIME TO SAY A PROPER HELLO.
G-GOOD EVENING, MISS.


WHADDYA SAY, JOE?
WELL, THAT SOUNDS EXCITING.


SURE, WHY NOT.
I'VE GOT SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK YOU ANYWAYS...


I'LL TAKE YOU TO A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN ENJOY A GREAT HAWAIIAN SHOW WITH THE MEAL.

HOP IN THEN.

LET'S GO IN MY CAR INSTEAD.

I THINK RIDING AROUND IN THAT WRECKAGE IS FAR TOO MUCH FOR MY HEART TO HANDLE.

Y-YES, GOOD IDEA!

. . . .




HA BA RA HA! HA BAR A HA!
AHH YES, THE PASSIONATE DANCE OF THE SOUTHERN LANDS...
YOH! HOH! HAH!


YOU'VE GOT NO RIGHT TO ASK ABOUT MS. YOUKO'S PRIVATE DEALINGS.
J-JOE, PLEASE.
I'VE BEEN ASKING YOU WHAT YOUR BUSINESS WITH THE CHAMPION WAS FOR A WHILE NOW.


...WHY'RE YOU TRYIN' TO CHANGE THE TOPIC?

AND I'M ASKING YOU WHAT KIND OF CONTRACT IT WAS.

YEAH,

JUST A LITTLE CONTRACT, THAT'S ALL.

IT'S NOTHING SPECIAL.

A CONTRACT TO ACT AS THE EXCLUSIVE PROMOTER FOR MR. MENDOZA'S MATCHES IN JAPAN.

THE EXCLUSIVE WHA...?

MR. MENDOZA WAS PLEASED ENOUGH TO SIGN THE CONTRACT WHEN I MADE MY OFFER OF 50,000 DOLLARS.

FIFTY... THOUSAND DOLLARS!?

F... FI...

YES, THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS... AS LONG AS THE MATCH IS HELD IN JAPAN, OF COURSE.

WOULD HAVE TO BE APPROVED BY YOU FIRST?

THEN... ARE YOU SAYING THAT A WORLD-TITLE MATCH BETWEEN MENDOZA AND ME,

BUT... ARE YOU SAYING THEY WERE JUST BLOWING HOT AIR?

OUR BACKERS, THE KANTO TV NETWORK, WERE BOASTING ABOUT HAVING THAT RIGHT,

THE ACTUAL PERSON WITH ALL THE POWER TO ARRANGE A WORLD-TITLE MATCH IS REALLY YOU, MS. YOUKO...?

IN FRONT OF ALL OF YABUKI'S FANS IS AN ENORMOUSLY PROFITABLE VENTURE SO I'D EXPECT THE TV NETWORKS WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO BEND TO MY EVERY WHIMS.

TO HOLD A WORLD-TITLE MATCH N JAPAN,

THERE'S NOTHING THE TV NETWORKS CAN DO ABOUT THIS NOW, NO MATTER HOW MUCH INFLUENCE OR POWER THEY HOLD.

THAT'S RIGHT.


IT'S QUITE HOT HERE...
ｶﾞﾀﾞ
AHH...


CARE TO TAKE A STROLL ALONG THE BEACH?



WELL?

JUST WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH WITH THAT CONTRACT?

HOLDING MY VERY FATE HOSTAGE RIGHT AT THE CROSSROADS WITH YOUR WORDS...

SO YOU DID IT AGAIN.

I HAVEN'T THOUGHT THAT FAR AHEAD YET, TO BE FRANK.

YES, WHAT AM I TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH, THAT IS THE QUESTION..

I SWEAR I'LL GET MY REVENGE...

IF YOU GET IN THE WAY OF MY ONE AND ONLY GOAL IN THIS LIFE TO CHALLENGE MENDOZA BY WAVING AROUND YOUR EXCLUSIVE LITTLE CONTRACT,

WELL LET ME SAY THIS!

I'M BOTH THE PRESIDENT OF SHIRAKI GYM AND A BOXING PROMOTER.

LET ME SAY THIS IN RETURN.

IT'S SIMPLY BUSINESS!

I DON'T DO ANY OF THIS OUT OF SHEER WHIMSY.

MY, HOW SCARY YOU ARE.

THREATENING TO KILL ME SO OPENLY, ARE YOU NOW?

WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING, YOU DAMNED WOMAN...

JUST...




....?


THEY'RE... THEY'RE...!
HIS FOOT-PRINTS...



JOE YABUKI

PINAN

PINAN-S

PINAN

HELLO, FELLOW BOXING FANS ALL THE WAY IN JAPAN! I'M HERE RIGHT NOW AT WAIKIKI BEACH PARK OF HAWAII.

THE 12 ROUND BANTAMWEIGHT PACIFIC TITLE-MATCH WILL BE HELD TONIGHT ON A SPECIAL RING SET UP HERE IN THIS FOOTBALL FIELD!

THOUGH I SUPPOSE THE SAME CAN BE SAID FOR HIS DETESTABILITY, HAHA

IT SEEMS YABUKI'S [illegible] TRANSCENDS CULTURAL AND LANGUAGE BARRIERS

THUS, IT WAS DECIDED TO [illegible] OUTDOORS HERE IN THE FOOTBALL FIELD OF WAIKIKI BEACH PARK.

HOWEVER, LIKE MUHAMMAD ALI'S INFAMOUS BOASTS OFF THE RING, YABUKI JOE'S WILD ANTICS HAVE CAUGHT THE HAWAIIANS' ATTENTION, THEREBY INCREASING THE EXPECTED CROWD-NUMBERS.

THE FIGHT WAS ACTUALLY SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN THE CIVIC AUDITORIUM OF HONOLULU WITH A SEATING CAPACITY OF 8000

WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YA, JOE YABUKI!

AND HERE COMES YABUKI, GREETED BY SHOUTS AND APPLAUSE.

THERE ARE JAPANESE FLAGS WAVING ALL OVER FROM THE STANDS!

THAT TITLE-BELT SURE DOES LOOK GREAT ON HIM!

THE SEASONED BOXER STRUTS OUT WITH A CONFIDENT LOOK!

AND HERE COMES TONIGHT'S CHALLENGER, PINANG SARAWAK!

PINANG! PINANG!

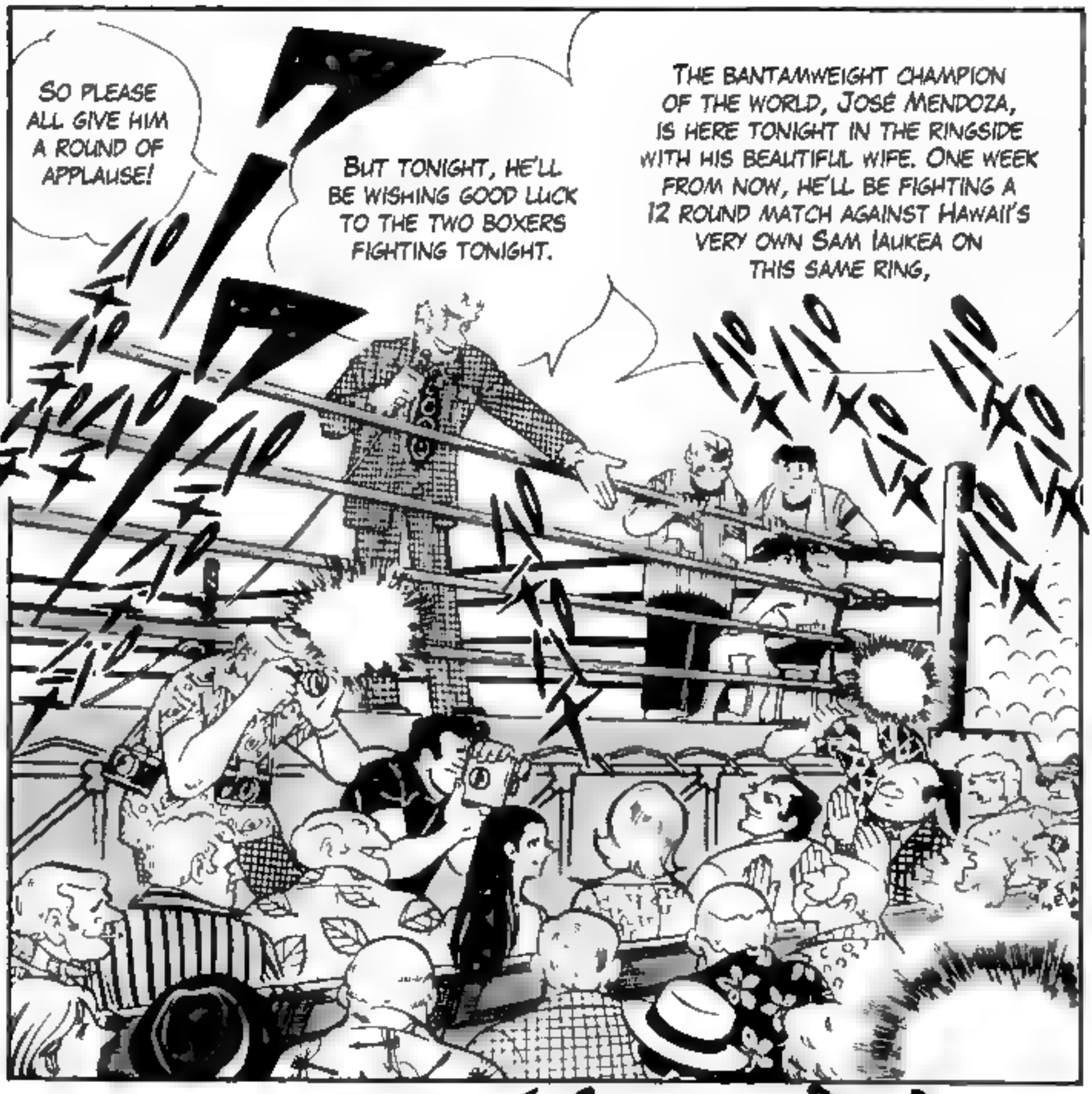
BEAT THAT COCKY JAP!

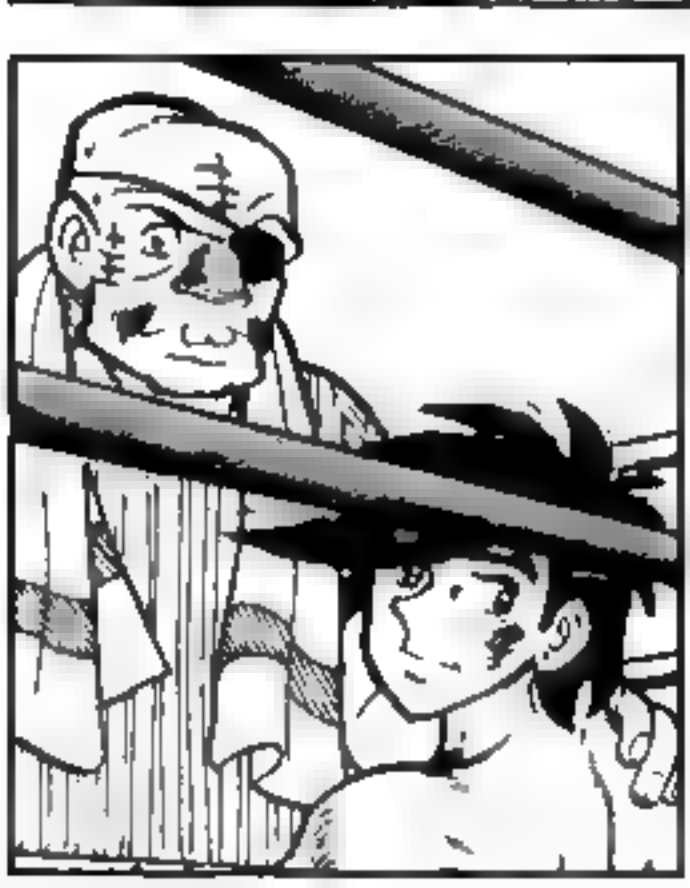
YOU CAN DO IT, PINANG!

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!

THEY'RE ALL EAGER FOR PINANG TO KO YABUKI.

OH MY. THE HAWAIIAN LOCALS AND CAUCASIANS IN THE CROWDS SEEM TO BE UNANIMOUSLY ROOTING FOR PINANG. IT'S NO STRETCH TO ASSUME THAT YABUKI'S WILD BEHAVIOR HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS.


SO PLEASE ALL GIVE HIM A ROUND OF APPLAUSE!
BUT TONIGHT, HE'LL BE WISHING GOOD LUCK TO THE TWO BOXERS FIGHTING TONIGHT.
THE BANTAMWEIGHT CHAMPION OF THE WORLD, JOSÉ MENDOZA, IS HERE TONIGHT IN THE RINGSIDE WITH HIS BEAUTIFUL WIFE. ONE WEEK FROM NOW, HE'LL BE FIGHTING A 12 ROUND MATCH AGAINST HAWAII'S VERY OWN SAM IAUKEA ON THIS SAME RING,

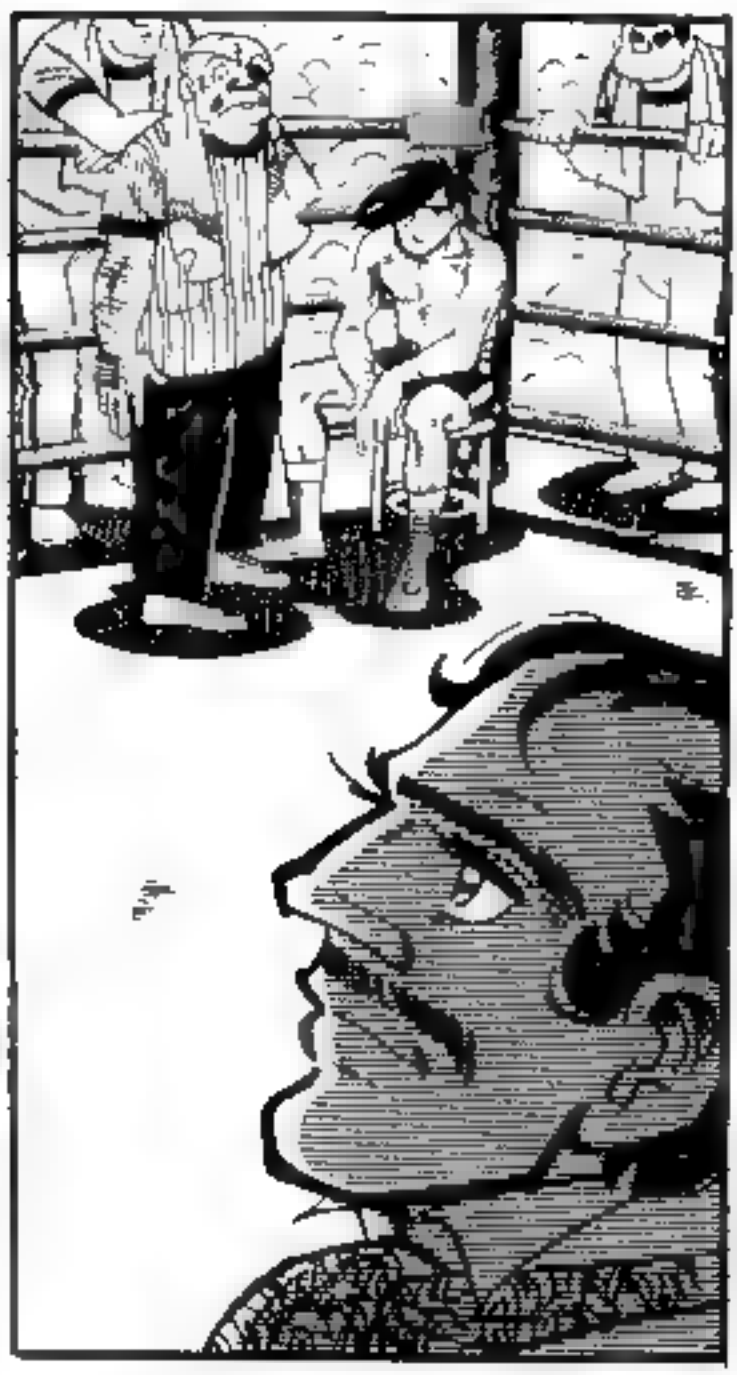









ﾌﾞﾌﾞﾌﾞﾌﾞ




S... SANKYUU CHAMP BERRY MUCH...


WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU!? SHAKE HIS HAND!



ふふ…

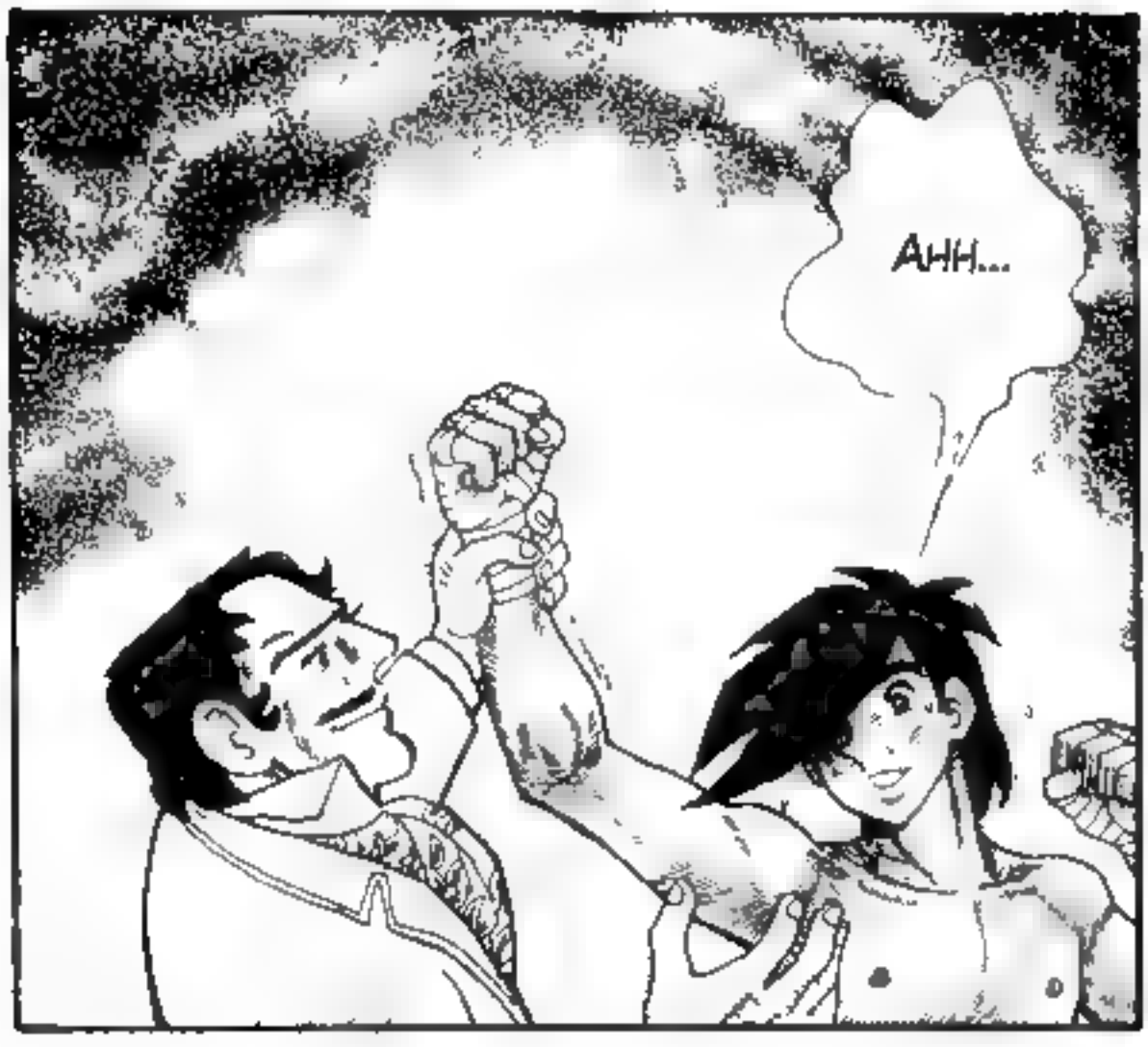
Y-YOU DUMBASS...

YOU DON'T LIKE BEING TOUCHED BY A YELLOW SHEEP, RIGHT?

KYAAAAAA!


OHHHH!
OHH-


AH-


AHH...



D... DAMN IT...

GOOD LUCK,

YELLOW SHEEP!

UGH...

OHHH...

AHH!

AS YOU'VE ALL PROBABLY HEARD, A FEW DAYS AGO, YABUKI WAS KNOCKED OUT BY A FIERCE PUNCH FROM MENDOZA AFTER HURLING INSULTS AT HIM.

YABUKI MUST HAVE BEEN TRYING TO RETURN THE FAVOUR JUST NOW BUT... TO THINK HE WOULD TRY TO DO SOMETHING SO FOOLISH HERE AND NOW OF ALL TIMES...

Aloha Aloha Aloha Aloha Aloha

WHAT WAS YABUKI DOING?

W-WHAT ON EARTH...?

IT'S JUST AS YOU SAW... YABUKI JOE ACTUALLY ATTEMPTED TO PUNCH MENDOZA JUST NOW.

GOOD LUCK.

THANK YOU VERY, VERY, VERY MUCH, MR. CHAMPION.

AFTER BLOCKING YABUKI'S PUNCH, MENDOZA CALMLY GOES ON TO SHAKE YABUKI'S HAND,

BUT WHAT A CLASS ACT BY THE WORLD CHAMPION!

THEN TURNS TO THE OTHER CORNER TO SHAKE PINANG'S HAND, AND QUIETLY STEPS OFF THE RING AS IF NOTHING UNUSUAL HAD HAPPENED

BUT EVEN IF THE CHAMPION IS WILLING TO LET THE INCIDENT SLIDE, IT SURE SOUNDS LIKE THE CROWD DOESN'T FEEL THE SAME WAY.


GO HOME, YABUKI!
YOU TRYIN' TO MAKE A MOCKERY OF YOURSELF AND YOUR COUNTRY!?
YOU'RE AN EMBARRASSMENT, JOE YABUKI!
JOE YABU
EVEN YABUKI'S ONLY SUPPORTERS, THE JAPANESE COMMUNITY OF HAWAII, HAVE TURNED THEIR BACKS ON HIM AS THEY NOW HURL INSULTING REMARKS!
GOOO HOOOME!
BEAT IT!
GET LOST, YOU CRAZY JAP!
WE DON'T WANT BARBARIANS LIKE YOU!

CALM DOWN AND TAKE YOUR SEATS!

P-PLEASE CALM DOWN!

EVEN WE IN THE BROADCASTING SEAT ARE BEING PELTED WITH VARIOUS ITEMS!

AHH! THEY'VE BEGUN THROWING THINGS AT THE RING!

OWW!

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW TO CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR MESS...? DO YOU?

JUST WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU THINKIN'...

YOU'VE DONE IT NOW, JOE...

YOU RETARDED JAP!

GO HOME!

GET THE HELL OFF THE RING!

SHUT YOUR DAMN MOUTHS, ALL OF YOU!

AH-

WHA-

EEK...

I SAID SHUT THE HELL UP!

A-ARE YOU OUTTA YOUR MIN-

AH...

...

ARE YOU ALRIGHT!?

SIR!

YOU'RE ALL BOOING ME 'CAUSE OF WHAT I DID JUST NOW...

NOW LISTEN UP...

NOW THINGS DIDN'T PAN OUT THE WAY I WAS HOPING, BUT THAT DOESN'T GIVE ANY OF YOU THE RIGHT TO COMPLAIN OR CRITICIZE ME!

BUT I'M DOING ALL THIS FOR PERFECTLY LOGICAL REASONS TO ME!

CAN ANYBODY TRANSLATE WHAT HE SAID?

WHAT'S THAT JAP SAYING?

ガヤガヤ

WHAT DID HE SAY?

HOWEVER, YABUKI'S BOLD WORDS ARE LOST TO MOST OF THE CROWD,

T... THE CROWD HAS NOW CALMED DOWN.

AND ONLY UNDERSTOOD BY THE JAPANESE MINORITY IN THE STANDS...

ｻﾞﾜ ﾜ...

I REALIZE IT IS MY FAULT FOR DISRUPTING THE START OF THIS MATCH OUT OF MY OWN PERSONAL FEELINGS,

THAT BEING SAID,

SO I DO APOLOGIZE FOR THAT.

ｻﾞﾜ ﾜ ｻﾞﾜ ﾜ

I'LL GIVE YOU ALL A LITTLE EXTRA SERVICE.

SO... TO MAKE UP FOR MY BEHAVIOR,

DON'T GET CONFUSED NOW. THIS AIN'T NO V FOR VICTORY SIGN.

THIS IS A KO-ROUND PREDIC-TION!

ｻﾞﾜ ﾜ

.....?

I SWEAR TO YOU ALL THAT I'LL KO PINANG SARAWAK IN ROUND 2!

GOT THAT!?

AS FOR YOU, CHAMP... I'LL FINISH MY BUSINESS WITH YOU ONCE THIS FIGHT'S OVER...

D-DAMMIT... THERE HE GOES AGAIN SPOUTIN' CRAP HE CAN'T TAKE BACK...

JOE YABUKI!

YOU THINK YOU CAN BEAT PINANG IN JUST TWO ROUNDS!? GOD, IS THERE ANY LIMIT TO YOUR UNWARRANTED BOASTING, YOU IDIOT!?

I'LL ACCEPT ALL YOUR INSULTS IF THAT HAPPENS.

SAY WHATEVER YOU WANT IF I CAN'T AFTER TWO ROUNDS...

ｴｯ!

LET'S GO.

WELL, THERE'S THE REF CALLING US.

JOE YABUKI MADE A KO PREDICTION...

D-DID YOU HEAR HIM JUST NOW...?

ｶﾞﾔｶﾞﾔ

WHAT, IN JUST TWO MEASLY ROUNDS!?

HE SAID HE'LL BEAT PINANG IN THE SECOND ROUND.





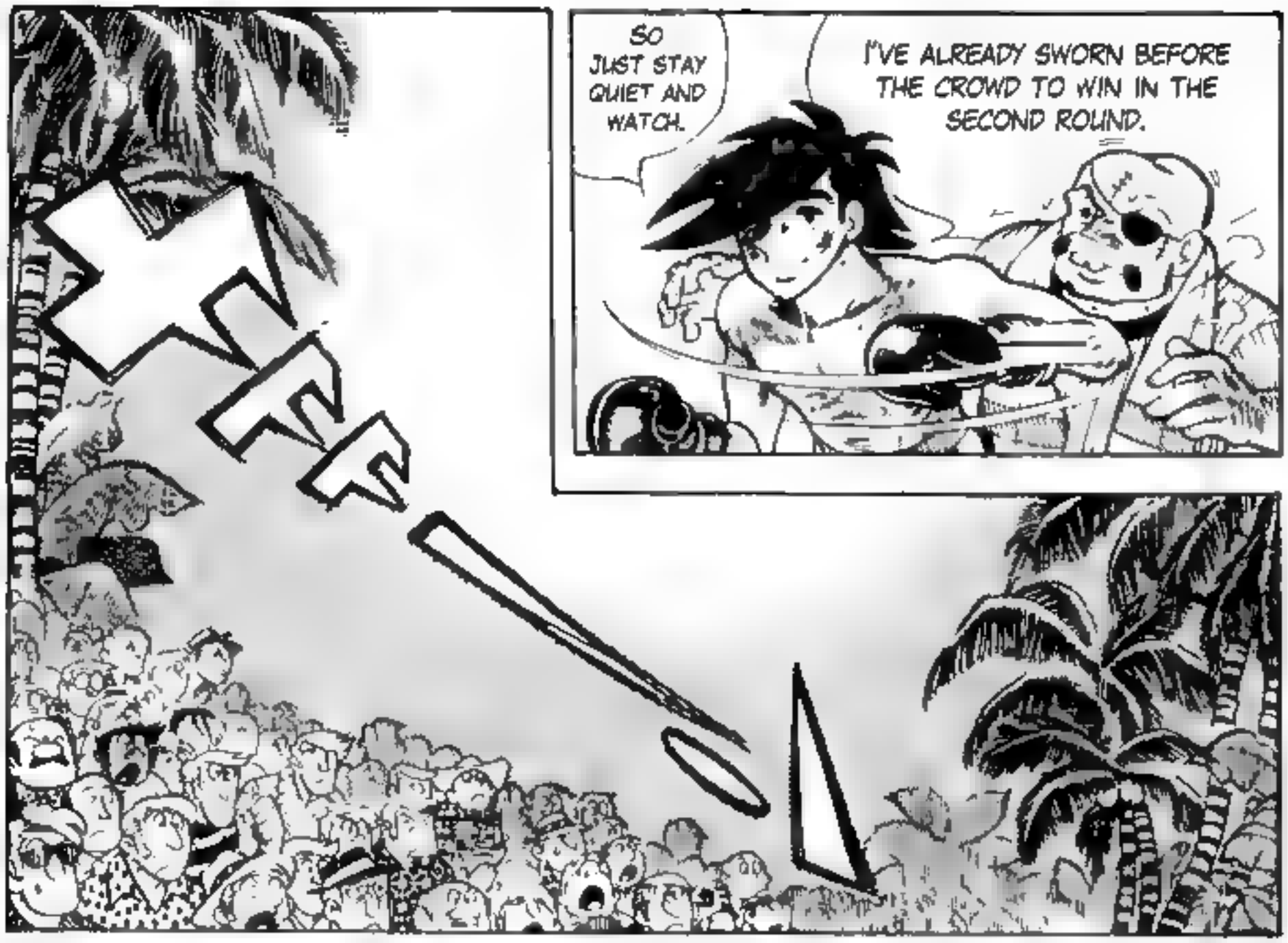

A KO IN THE SECOND ROUND, HE SAID!
ガヤガヤガヤ
2 ROUNDS...?


SEEMS YOU'VE GOT NOTHING BUT MENDOZA IN YOUR EYES,


ｶﾞｼｯ
JOE!


HMPH, TRYING HIS BEST TO LOOK CALM...


IF YOU DON'T REALIZE THAT, YOU'LL SOON FIND YOURSELF IN BIG TROUBLE AGAINST PINANG AND ALL HIS EXPERIENCE!
BUT YOUR OPPONENT NOW IS PINANG SARAWAK RIGHT OVER THERE IN THE OTHER CORNER.

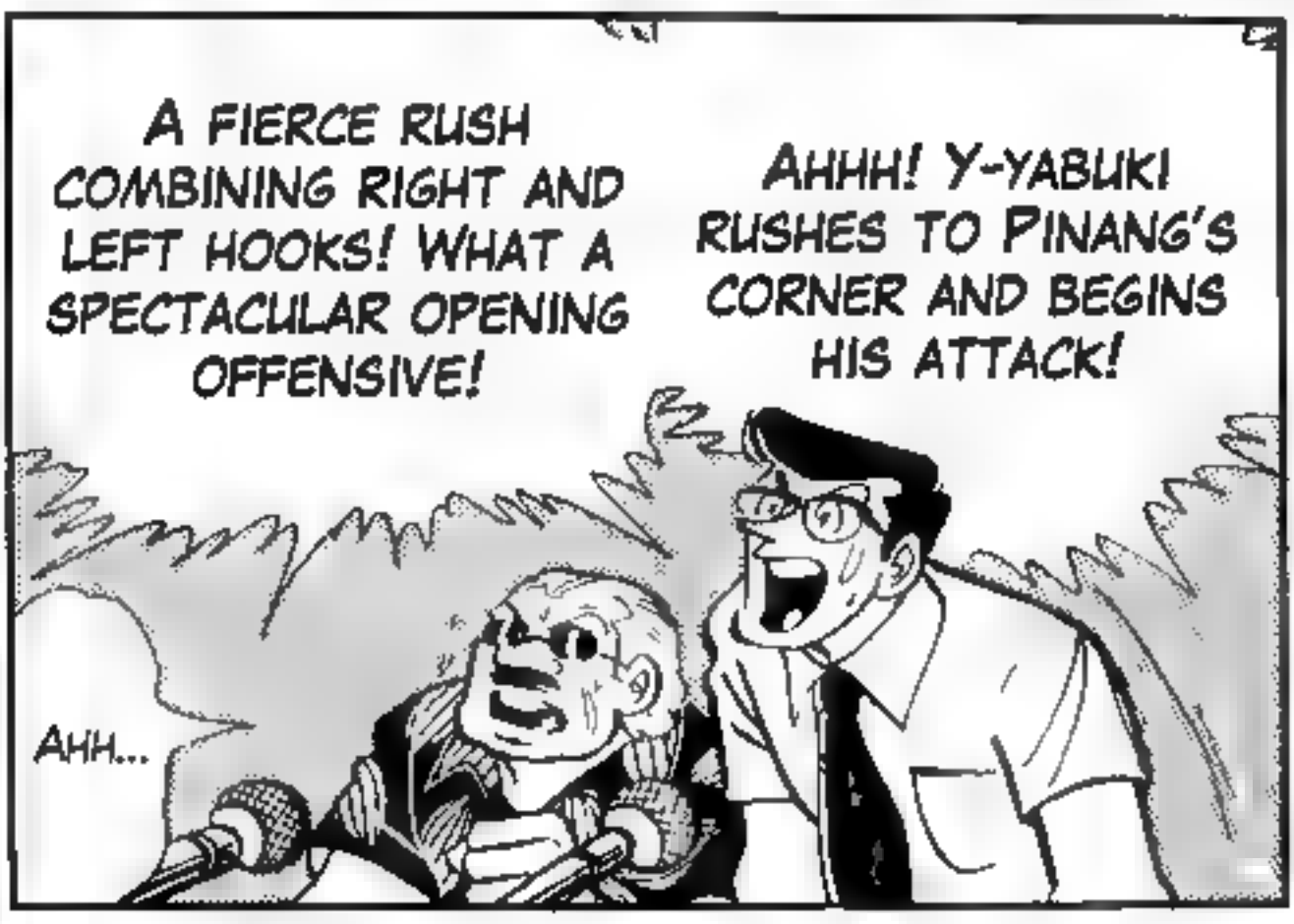

SO JUST STAY QUIET AND WATCH.
I'VE ALREADY SWORN BEFORE THE CROWD TO WIN IN THE SECOND ROUND.
HERE I COME...

OH HH HH HH!








A FIERCE RUSH COMBINING RIGHT AND LEFT HOOKS! WHAT A SPECTACULAR OPENING OFFENSIVE!
AHHH! Y-YABUKI RUSHES TO PINANG'S CORNER AND BEGINS HIS ATTACK!
AHH...

T... THAT'S NOT YABUKI...

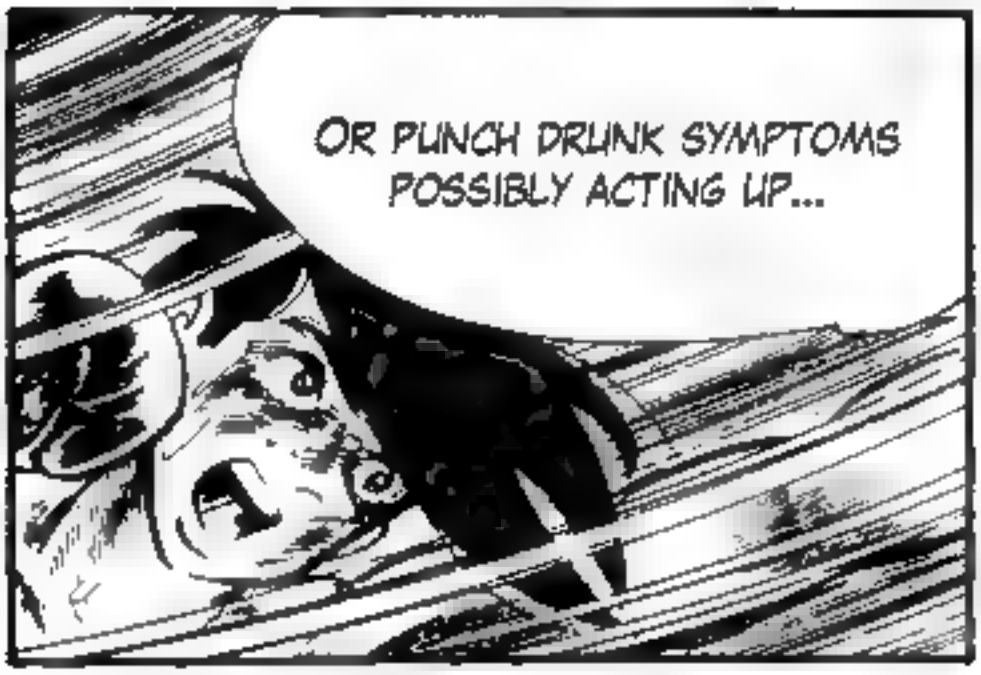
SAVAGE AND YET... GALLANT AT THE SAME TIME!

A RAW, SAVAGE BLOW!

MN...

HE'S NOT FIGHTING LIKE HIS USUAL SELF TONIGHT...


BUT HE'S DIFFERENT TONIGHT...!
MIGHT SEEM LIKE HIS USUAL WILD SELF,
THE KO PREDICTION AND HIS FIERCE RUSH,


OR PUNCH DRUNK SYMPTOMS POSSIBLY ACTING UP...


BUT HE'S LOOKING FAR TOO TENSE OUT THERE TO THE POINT OF BEING PITIABLE...

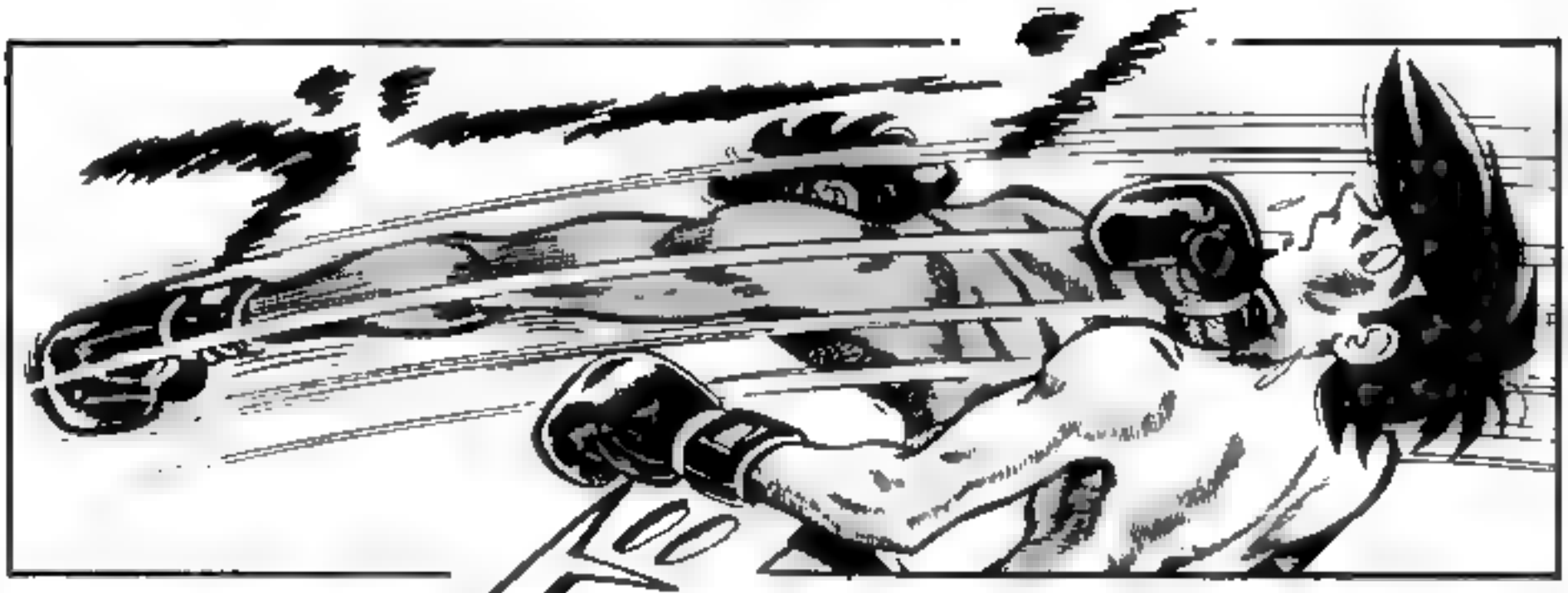

I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S BECAUSE HE'S AFFECTED BY MENDOZA SITTING BY THE RINGSIDE,

HE'S IN TROUBLE NOW!

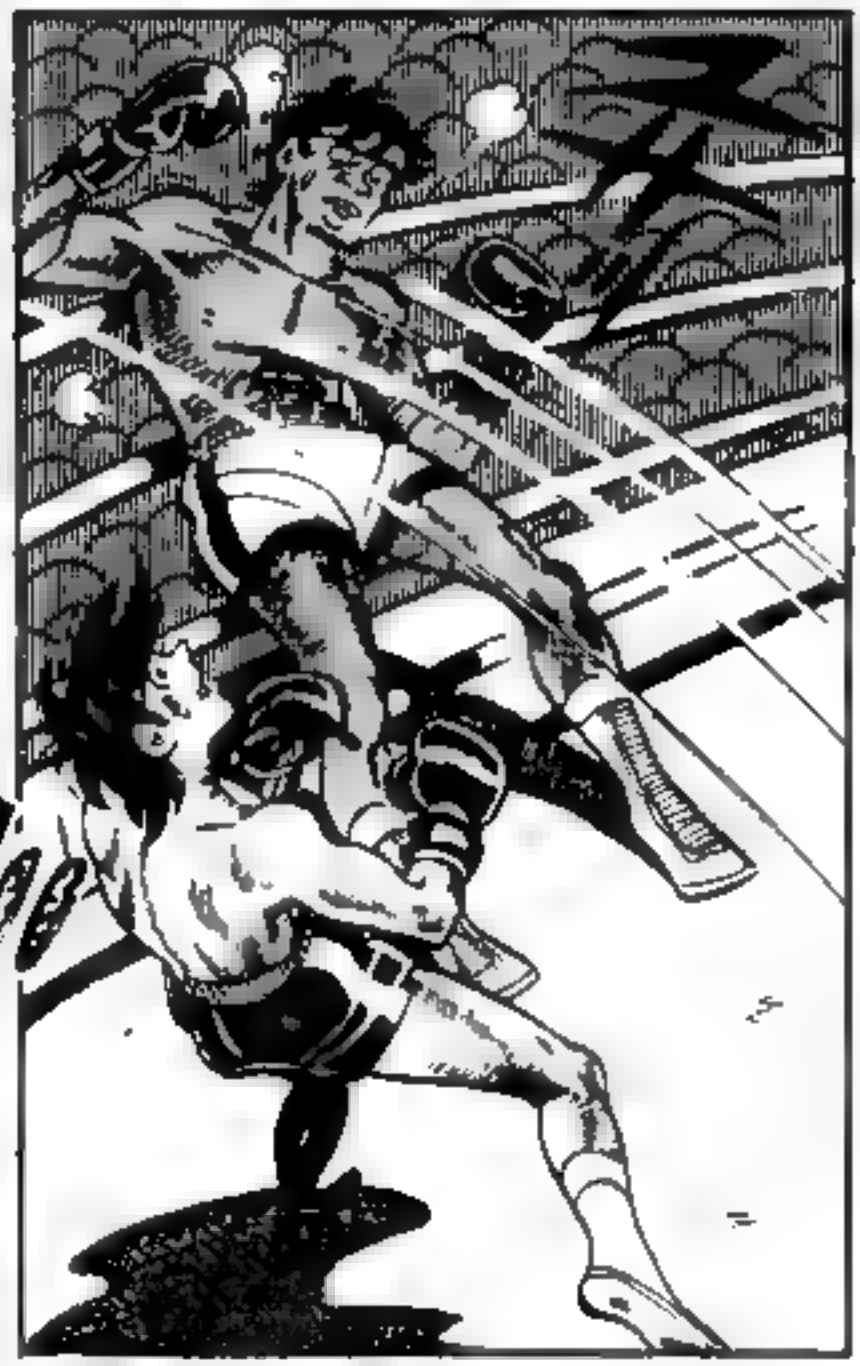
AGHHH!

STARTING WITH A GREAT COUNTER FROM A LEFT STRAIGHT THAT SHOOK YABUKI UP!

AFTER BEING ON THE DEFENSIVE UNTIL NOW, PINANG LAUNCHES A COUNTER-OFFENSIVE,


LOO






IT'S NOW PINANG WHO HAS HIS BACKS TO THE ROPES AND HAS TO DEFEND HIMSELF!
BUT WAIT! YABUKI REVERSES!
WHY YOU ...!

HE'S COMBINING LEFT AND RIGHT HOOKS WITH UPPERCUTS, WITHOUT GIVING THE CHALLENGER EVEN A MOMENT TO BREATHE!

YABUKI ATTACKS AND ATTACKS!

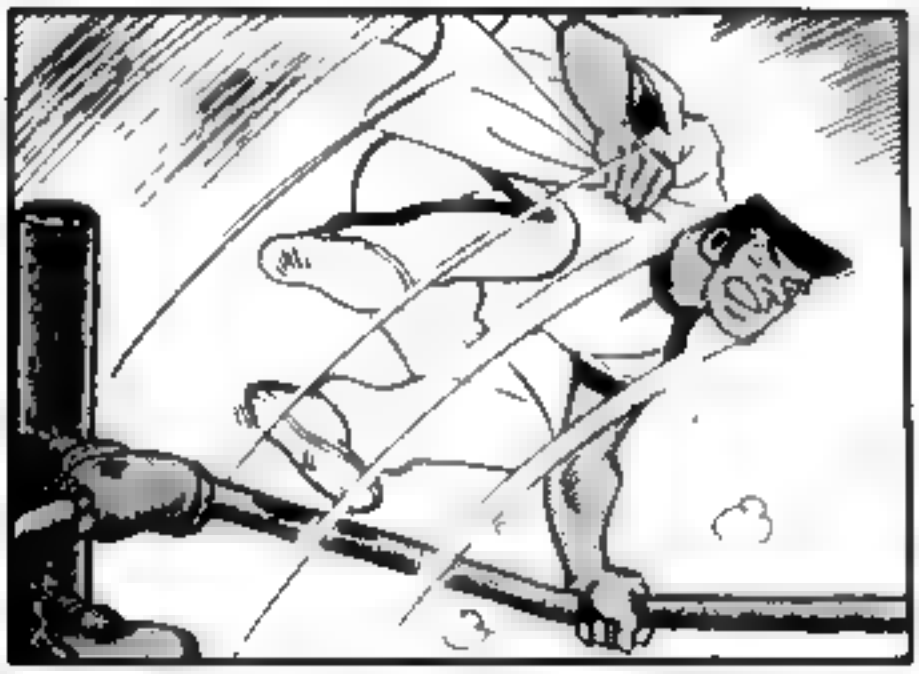


HIS ATTACKS AREN'T WORKING.

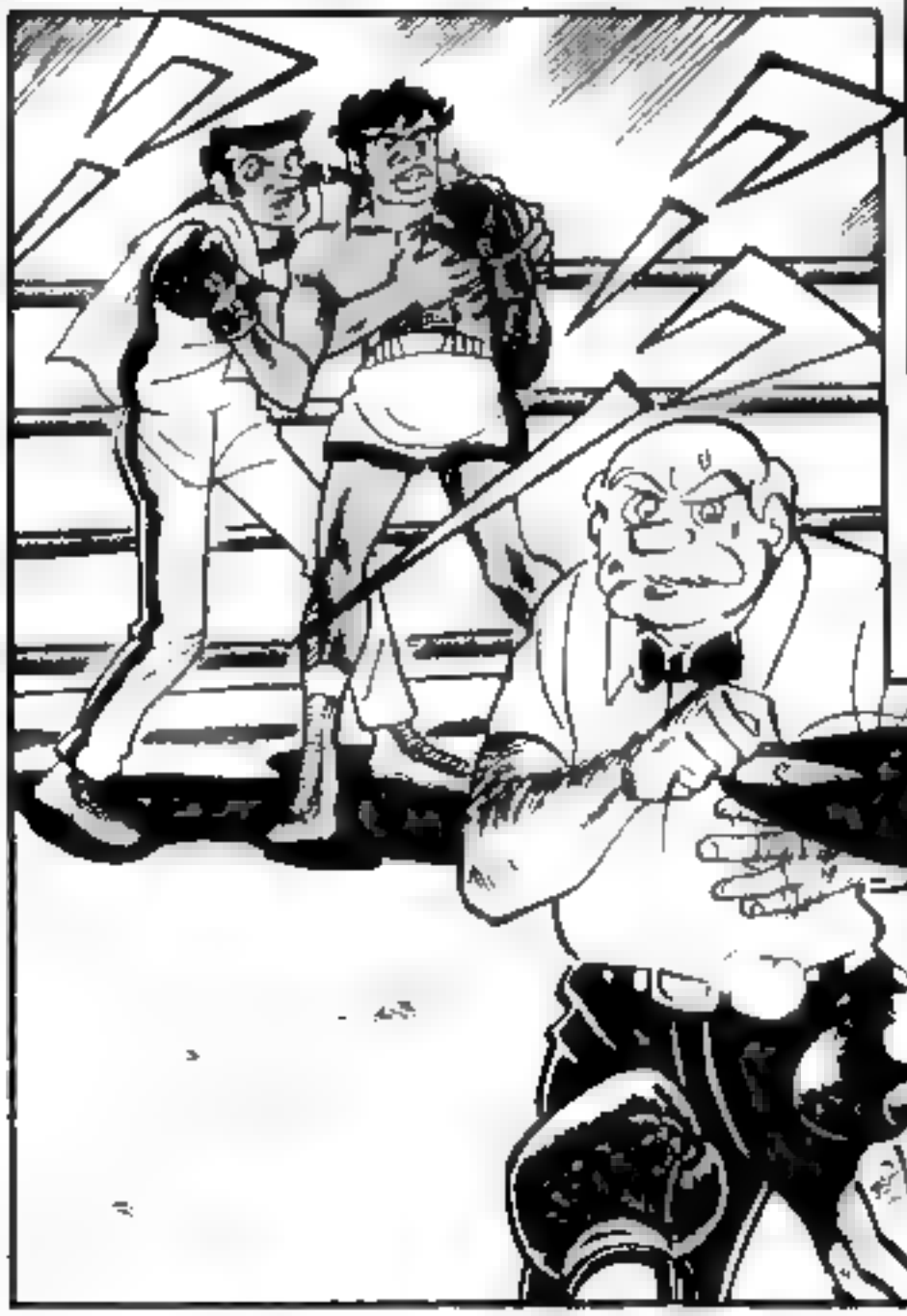
BUT...

THE PUNCHES MAY LOOK FLASHY AT A CASUAL GLANCE, BUT AGAINST A TOUGH GUARD LIKE THAT, THEY'RE PROBABLY DOING LITTLE DAMAGE, IF ANY.

AH...

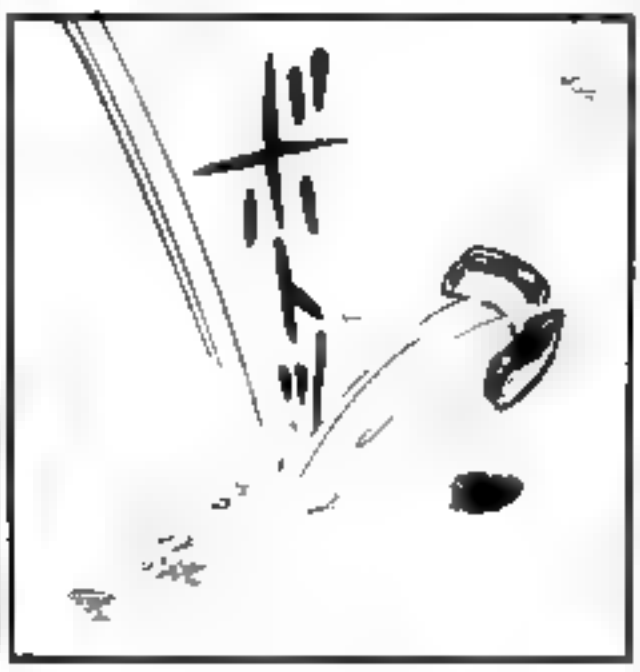



STOP!
I SAID STOP!




JOE!


HE'S COMPLETELY MENTAL.
SO THAT'S THE PACIFIC CHAMP, HUH...





BOTH IN HOW HE LOOKS AND ACTS...

HE'S JUST A RABID MUTT.

. . . .

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

LOOK HOW SWOLLEN UP THEY ARE AFTER I LET HIM PUNCH MY GUARD ALL THROUGHOUT THAT ROUND.

JUST LOOK AT MY ARMS!

HE'S NOT FIT TO BE THE CHAMP...

DON'T GET SO STUBBORN ABOUT SOME DUMB OLD PREDICTION!

YOU TRYIN' TO RUSH YOURSELF JUST TO MAKE IT IN TIME FOR THE PREDICTION YOU MADE IN THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT?

WHAT ARE YOU JUMPING AROUND LIKE A MADMAN FOR?

FINE, WHAT-EVER.

IT'S ALL PART OF MY PLANS.

THAT PREDICTION... AIN'T NO SPUR-OF-THE-MOMENT THING.

PREDICTIONS ARE A NICE BIT OF SERVICE TO THE FANS, BUT WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT IS TO FIGHT STEADILY AT YOUR NATURAL PACE!

UNDER-STAND?

IF YOU DON'T, YOU'LL BE DIGGING YOUR OWN GRAVE IN FRONT OF PINANG.

AND YET THE FANS STILL SAW ALL THAT AS A PART OF HIS CHARMS AND NEVER DISRESPECTED HIM BECAUSE OF IT.

JUST BE AWARE THAT EVEN THE GREAT MUHAMMAD ALI COULDN'T MAKE GOOD ON HIS PREDICTIONS ALL THE TIME.

IN THE UPCOMING SECOND ROUND...!

I'LL DEFINITELY KNOCK HIM OUT...

.....

.....

HE'S BEEN DOING THAT SINCE THE FIRST ROUND.

HMPH.

YABUKI'S GONNA COME AFTER YOU HARD IN THE NEXT ROUND AS IF HIS LIFE DEPENDED ON IT.

PINANG,

FRUSTRATE HIM ENOUGH AND YOU'LL FIND YOUR OPENING FOR A COUNTER LIKE THE ONE YOU FED HIM IN THE FIRST ROUND!

IN ANY CASE, USE FOOTWORK TO DODGE HIS BLOWS AND FRUSTRATE HIM.

ALRIGHT...

I'LL MAKE THAT CRAZY BULL CHARGE POINTLESSLY AROUND THE RING...!

HA,

...

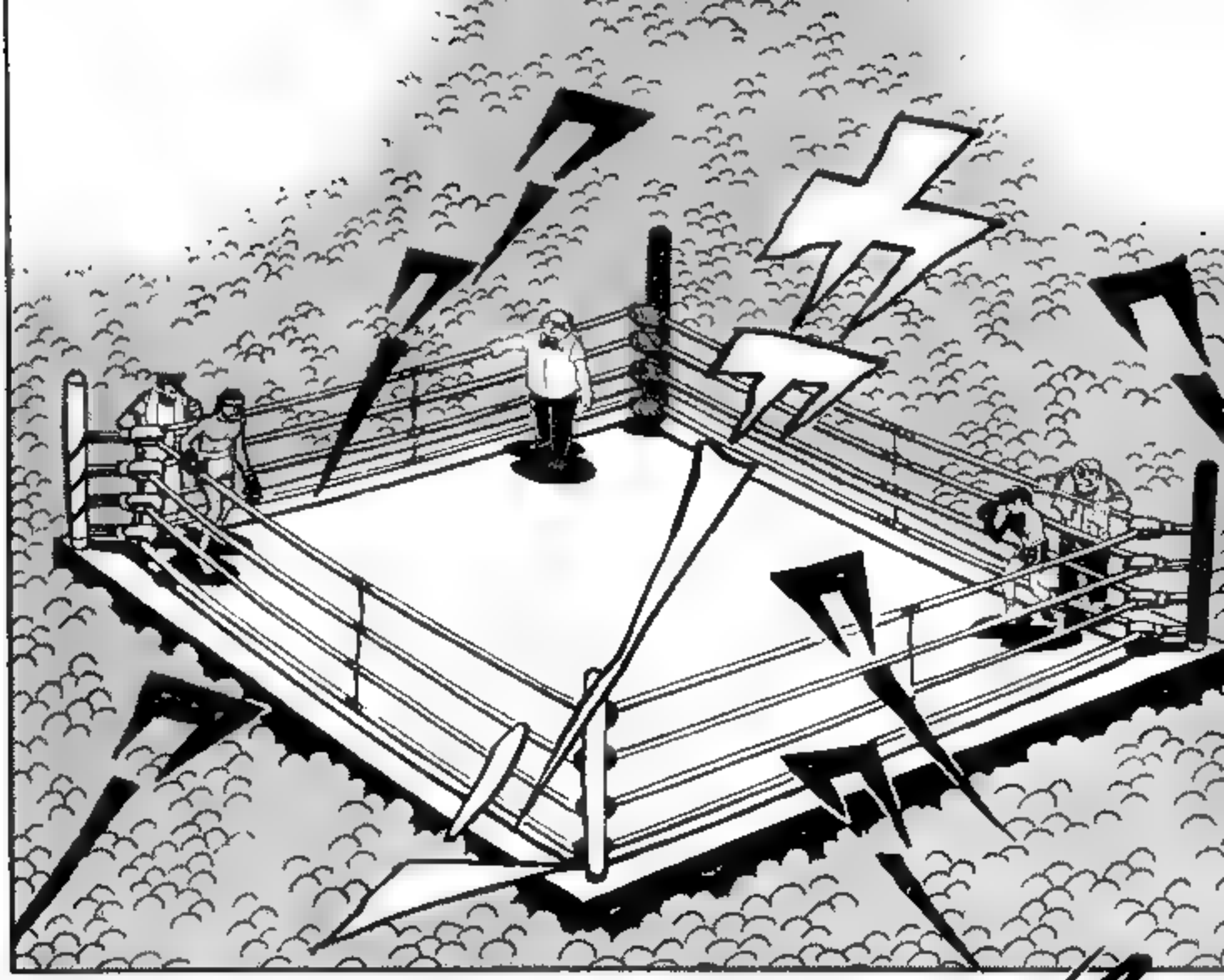
IF THINGS GO WELL, YOU'LL SOON BE WEARING THE PACIFIC TITLE-BELT!

AGAINST A CHARGING BULL LIKE HIM, COUNTERS ARE YOUR BEST FRIEND.

YES, YABUKI MAY FIND HIMSELF IN BIG TROUBLE IF HE PUSHES HIMSELF TOO HARD IN THE NEXT ROUND JUST TO FULFILL HIS PREDICTION.

HE'S STILL YET TO INFLICT ANY SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF DAMAGE THAT WOULD MAKE A KO IN THE NEXT ROUND LIKELY.

ALTHOUGH THAT ROUND ENDED IN YABUKI'S FAVOUR WITH THE SCORE OF 5-4,








A JAPANESE SAMURAI NEVER GOES BACK ON HIS WORD! LET'S SEE THAT PREDICTION COME TRUE!
YOU CAN DO IT, YABUKI! KO HIM THIS ROUND!




PINANG USES HIS SWIFT FOOTWORK TO GET PAST YABUKI'S PUNCHES!
AHH!
YABUKI'S SWINGING AT EMPTY AIR!
AS PINANG SEEMS MORE AND MORE COMMITTED TO PUTTING UP A TIGHT DEFENSE.
WITH EMPTY SWINGS LIKE THOSE, A KO IN THE SECOND ROUND SEEMS UNLIKELY. YABUKI'S ATTEMPT AT MAKING GOOD ON HIS KO-PREDICTION IS ACTUALLY HAVING THE OPPOSITE EFFECT,
YES...
PINANG SARAWAK'S EXPERIENCE IS REALLY STARTING TO SHOW HERE WITH HIS WONDERFUL FOOTWORK!

HUMILIATE HIM BY BREAKING HIS PREDICTION!

HEY, PINANG! DON'T LET HIS PREDICTION COME TRUE NO MATTER WHAT!

WHAT'S THE MATTER, JOE YABUKI!?

YOU AIN'T EVEN SCRATCHING HIM!

PANT

PANT

PANT

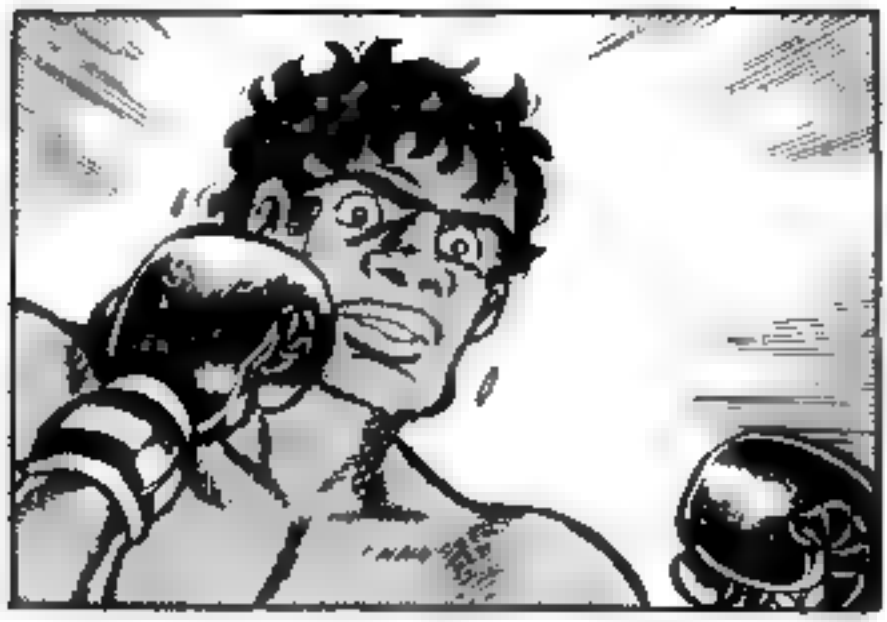
THEN I'VE GOT A PLAN OF MY OWN...

IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU'RE GONNA PLAY,

HEH HEH.

OHHH...

IT'S NATURAL THAT YOU'RE PLANNING NOT TO GET CLOSE TO ME THIS ROUND...




NO, YOU IDIOT! YOUR GUARD IS COMPLETELY DOWN!
AGHHHH!

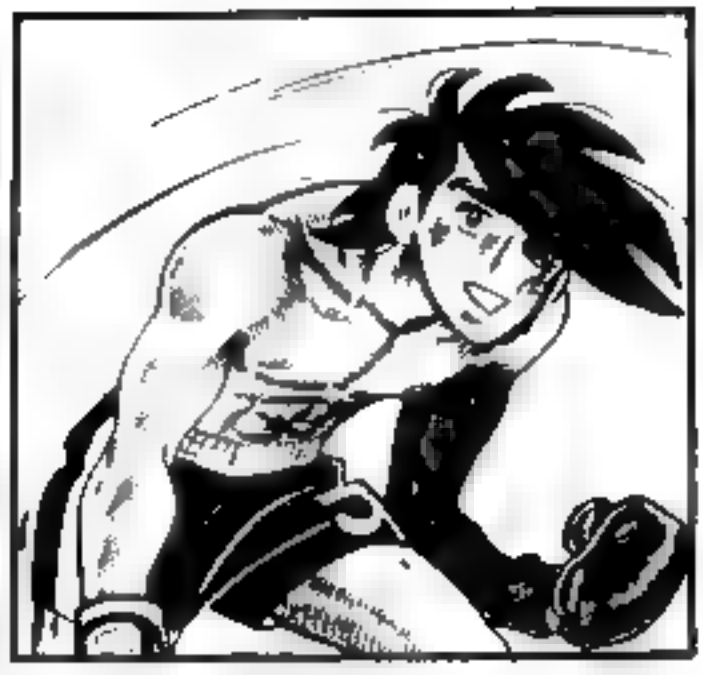

OH HH HH!




DON'T LET IT SLIP!
PINANG! NOW'S YOUR CHANCE FOR A COUNTER!


PANT
PANT
PANT
HE REALLY IS A RABID DOG...
HE'S DROPPED HIS GUARD COMPLETELY...






AHHHH-

BACK TO YOUR CORNER!

NICE COUNTER!

Y-YOU DID IT!

UGHH!

HE'S SPRAWLED OUT ON THE RING AFTER TAKING A HUGE COUNTER!

YABUKI IS DOWN!

YOU FOOL...

AGHHH... WHAT'D I TELL YA...

3!

2!

1!

4!

RATHER THAN KNOCKING OUT HIS OPPONENT THIS ROUND, YABUKI MAY FIND *HIMSELF* KO'D THIS ROUND!

THIS IS THE WORST-CASE-SCENARIO FOR YABUKI!

5!

8!

. . . .

UGH...

GO FOR THE FINISH!

THAT PACIFIC TITLE'S NOW AS GOOD AS YOURS!

YABUKI'S LOOKING GROGGY!

YOU GOOD TO GO?

I'M FINE...

HEH HEH.

FIGHT ON!

SOME VETERAN HE IS...

SEASONED BOXER, MY ASS.

FALLING FOR A STUPID TRICK LIKE THIS...

YOU'RE ONE SIMPLE-MINDED FOOL!

AHHH!

OHHH!

GAHH!

TAKE THIS!

AND THIS!


OOF!

GAHH!

UGHH...

6!

5!

4!

3!

PINANG...

AGHH...

S-STOP! THAT'S A ROPE-DOWN!

STOP!

8!

7!

BUT YOU'RE ALREADY ON THE BRINK OF UNCONSCIOUSNESS.

OH... SEEMS LIKE YOU'VE GOT SOME BACKBONE.

FIGHT!

AND IT'S TIME...




TO PUSH YOU OVER THE BRINK!


UGHH!




GIVE UP THE POINTLESS STRUGGLE.
C'MON THEN.


THE SOONER YOU SLEEP, THE BETTER!
ZOO
ZOO

IT'S... IT'S NO GOOD...

HE'S GONNA DIE OUT THERE AT THIS RATE...!

EEK!

OHHH!

KYAAA!

L... LET'S LEAVE, DEAR..

STOP!

STOP!

THROW IN THE TOWEL!

MUR...
MURDERER...

M...

ゴズッ!!

JOE...

J...

ドドドド!!

T... THE
PREDICTION...
CAME TRUE...

YOU
REALLY
DID IT!

YOU
DID IT!

JUST AS HE PREDICTED BEFORE THE FIGHT, YABUKI WINS BY KO 2 MINUTES 48 SECONDS IN THE SECOND ROUND!

HE WINS HIS FIRST TITLE-DEFENSE IN A SPECTACULAR FASHION!

...

JUST LISTEN TO THAT THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE FROM THE CROWD ON THEIR FEETS!

THE RING HE LEAVES BEHIND IS A GRISLY, BLOODIED MESS!

FULLY DESERVING HIS TITLE AS THE MAN WHO MAKES THE IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBLE!

THE MAN OF THE HOUR,

PINANG!

PINANG!

ONE HELL OF A BOXER!

J-JOE...! YOU REALLY ARE...

HEH

BRING THE DOCTOR!

HEY, WHERE'D JOSÉ GO!?

JOSÉ...

COULD YOU PLEASE SHARE YOUR FEELINGS ON YOUR FIRST SUCCESSFUL TITLE-DEFENSE?

C-CONGRATULATIONS, YABUKI.

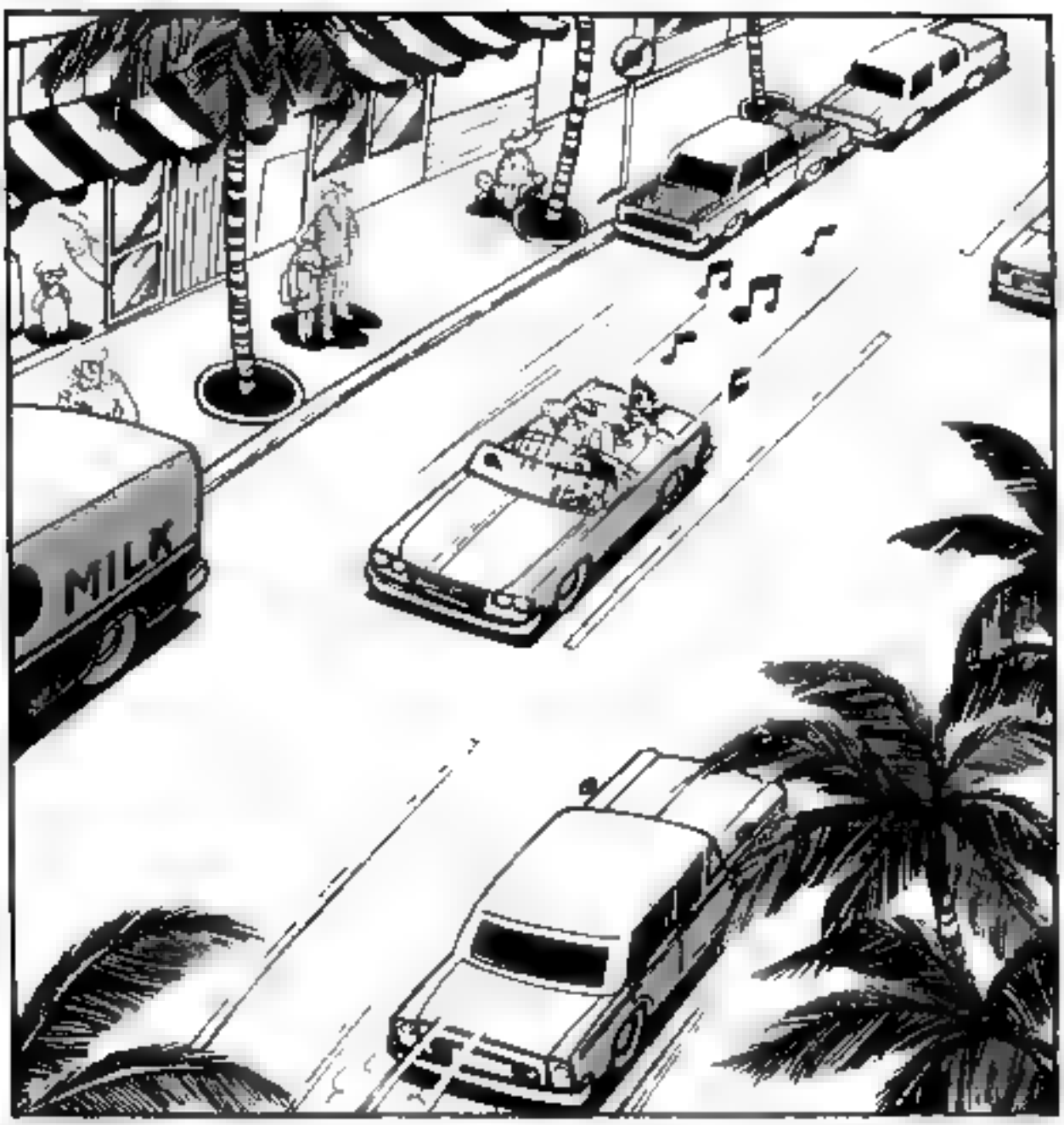
LET'S GO, OLD MAN.

THAT SUMS UP MY FEELINGS.

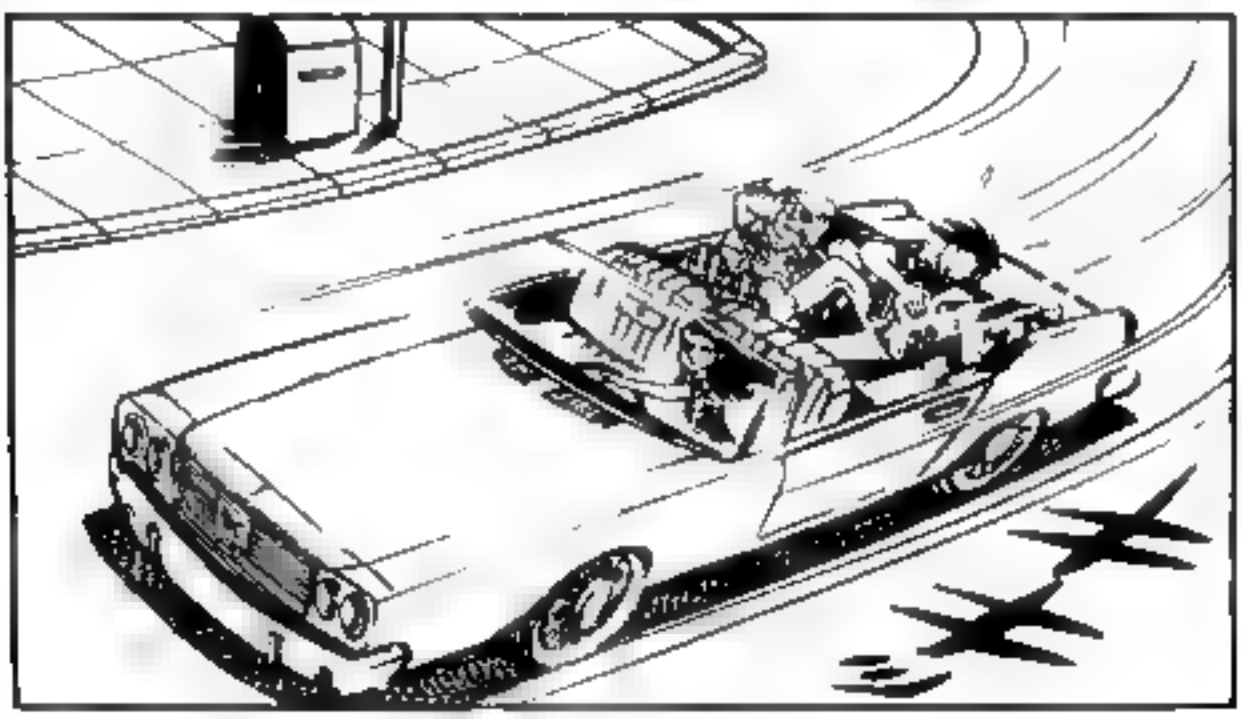
NEXT UP WILL BE YOU!

MEN-DOZA!


JOE YABUKI


MILK


KAIMANA-
HIRAAA
ALOOO-
HAAAA



AGHHH!

WHOA
WHOA-

Sears

S-STOP IT, JOE!

YOU THINK WE'RE JUST LUGGAGE BAGS IN THE BACK SEAT OR SOMETHING!?

GOD, WHAT KIND OF A WOMAN DRIVES LIKE THAT!?

HERE WE ARE AT THE SHOPPING MALL.

HM?

YOU'RE RIGHT, IT'S THE PACIFIC CHAMPION!

AH! ISN'T THAT JOE YABUKI?

BEING A BOXER SURE CAN BE TOUGH...

I GOTTA DEAL WITH THIS WHEREVER I GO IN HAWAII.

YOU'RE NO LYING BRAGGART. YOU'RE THE REAL THING!

HEY JOE!

SHAKE MY HAND, PLEASE!

ME TOO!

CAN I HAVE YOUR AUTOGRAPH?

COCKY AS EVER, THAT SON OF A GUN...

MAYBE YOU'D LIKE A KISS TOO, MISS? HAHAHA!

SURE, SURE. I'LL SHAKE YOUR HAND AND GIVE AS MANY AUTOGRAPHS AS YOU WANT.

KYAAA!

NO MATTER WHO HE FOUGHT OR WHAT HAPPENED, THE YABUKI I KNOW ALWAYS WANTED TO BE ALONE...

BUT THAT MERRINESS ISN'T YABUKI'S TRUE SELF...

I DON'T KNOW IF I'M OVERTHINKING THINGS BECAUSE OF MY SUSPICIONS,

WOULD EXPLODE OUT ON THE RINGS AND ALLOWED HIM TO TURN THE IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBLE...

AND THE PENT-UP ENERGY THAT LONE WOLF HAD AGAINST THIS VULGAR AND MATERIALISTIC MODERN WORLD,

HE DISLIKED HAVING TO MEET MANY PEOPLE.

WHETHER SHUTTING HIMSELF UP ALONE IN A ROOM OR SILENTLY HITTING THE SANDBAG...

PUNCH DRUNK SYMPTOMS CAN BE DIFFICULT TO DETECT IN A BOXER WHO'S EITHER TENSE OR INTENSELY CONCENTRATING ON SOME GOAL.


IN ANY CASE, I'VE GOT TO HAVE DR. KEYNISKY TAKE A LOOK AT HIM WHILE HE'S HERE IN HAWAII...
OR AM I WORRYING TOO MUCH?
IS YABUKI REALLY PUNCH DRUNK...?
OH, GIMME A BREAK ALREADY! I CAN'T DO MY SHOPPING LIKE THIS!
THAT'S IT, SIGNING SESSION'S OVER! CLEAR THE WAY!
SIGN THIS, JOE!
YOUR AUTOGRAPH, PLEASE!
KYAAA! THE CHAMPION TOUCHED ME!
YO CHAMP! OVER HERE!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO COME SHOPPING WITH US IF YOU DON'T WANT TO.

WHY THE GLUM FACE?

...

COME ON THEN, LET'S ENTER THE MALL.

PERHAPS I FELT A LITTLE JEALOUS AT SEEING HOW POPULAR YOU WERE WITH THE LADIES JUST NOW.

THAT'S NOT IT.

NO, NO.

YOU SURE DO KNOW HOW TO FLATTER A PERSON EVER SINCE YOU BECAME A PROMOTER.

WELL SAID.

I'M IMPRESSED, HAHAHA!

HA, LOOK AT YOU BLUSHING ALL OVER!

HM... PRETTY STYLISH.

SHOW ME THE ONES WITH THE SHELLS.

NO, NOT THAT ONE. THE ONE RIGHT NEXT TO IT.

EH, I'LL TAKE THEM ALL.

THIS ONE'S NICE TOO.

TIKI GOD

THAT'S ENOUGH JOE...

WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO WITH ALL THIS STUFF ANYWAYS?

HEY, ASK HER HOW MUCH THIS IS.

I LIKE THIS LAUHALA HAT.

COOL LOOKING DOLL HERE, HAHA.

How much is this?

HEH. A LITTLE BIT BIG FOR SACHI.

BUT THIS SHIRT'S THE PERFECT SIZE FOR TONKICHI!

What is the price of that?

20 dollars.

I GOTTA BUY GIFTS FOR THE KIDS, NISHI, NORIKO, AND ALL THE GUYS BACK IN DOYA.

SHOW ME THAT SMALLEST-SIZED MUUMUU.

HAHA, NOW IT'S YOU WITH THE GLUM FACE.

WHOO BOY, DID WE BUY A LOT OF STUFF.

DON'T WORRY. WE'VE STILL ENOUGH MONEY LEFT FOR THE FLIGHT BACK.

WOOPS, MY BAD.

HEY, COME ON. DON'T GIVE ME THAT OL' STINK-EYE.

GOOD FOR YOU.

FOR SOME REASON, I'M JUST OVERFLOWING WITH ENERGY TODAY!

HEY OLD MAN.

DID THE LOVELY DRIVER IN FRONT HEAR WHAT I SAID? WELL?

IN FACT, AS LONG AS THE MISS IN FRONT WAS WILLING TO LEND A HAND, I'D LOVE TO SETTLE THINGS WITH MENDOZA HERE IN HONOLULU.

IT'S POSSIBLE THAT OVER-EXERTION AND FATIGUE'S MAKING YOU FEEL THAT WAY.

...IF YOU ASK ME, IT'S TIMES WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE IN THE BEST CONDITION THAT YOU HAVE TO WATCH OUT FOR.

IN ANY CASE, THERE'S NO NEED TO RUSH.

HAHA... YOU SURE ARE IN HIGH SPIRITS.

I'M GETTIN' REAL SICK AND TIRED OF YOUR NEEDLESSLY OVERCAUTIOUS ATTITUDE!

DAMMIT, WHY YOU GOTTA BE SUCH A WET BLANKET ALL THE TIME!?

THE WORLD BANTAMWEIGHT CHAMPION JOSÉ MENDOZA'S 12 ROUND MATCH AGAINST THE HAWAIIAN FEATHERWEIGHT CHAMPION SAM IAUKEA WAS HELD ON THE SAME RING AT WAIKIKI BEACH PARK.

ONE WEEK AFTER JOE'S FIGHT WITH PINANG SARAWAK...

I BEG YOUR PARDON?

HM?

I-IT'S NOTHING. JUST IGNORE WHAT HE SAID.

A-AHH,

AS MUCH AS I APPRECIATE KANTO TV'S SUPPORT, THERE'S REALLY NOT MUCH YOU CAN DO SINCE YOU WERE BEATEN TO THE PUNCH ON THE CRUCIAL NEGOTIATION RIGHTS...

THANKS...

WE'RE PLANNING ON TAKING VIDEO FOOTAGE OF TONIGHT'S FIGHT TO USE AS HANDY REFERENCE MATERIAL FOR YOUR EVENTUAL FIGHT WITH MENDOZA IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

I SEE YOU'VE ARRIVED EARLY.

HELLO THERE, MR. TANGE AND YABUKI.

KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT ABOUT THAT!

YOU IDIOT!

ゴキッ!

AHAHAHA!

I GUESS, UHH, YOU REALLY DO NEED AT LEAST A FEATHERWEIGHT CHAMP TO GIVE MENDOZA A DECENT CHALLENGE!

R... RIGHT...

FINE, FINE. OWW, THAT HURT...

IT'S NEITHER THE TIME NOR PLACE TO OPENLY TALK ABOUT MS. YOUKO'S PRIVATE DEALINGS.

EVEN THE NIGHT BREEZE IS WARM IN HAWAII. MY SHIRT'S ALL STICKING TO MY SWEATY BODY.

MAN,

IT'S TIME FOR THE HERO OF HAWAII TO BECOME THE HERO OF THE WORLD!

GIVE THE WORLD CHAMP A TASTE OF YOUR FISTS!

WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, SAM IAUKEA!

HEY, SAM!

YOU'RE THE HERO OF HAWAII!

SAM

SAM

HERE COMES THE WORLD CHAMP!

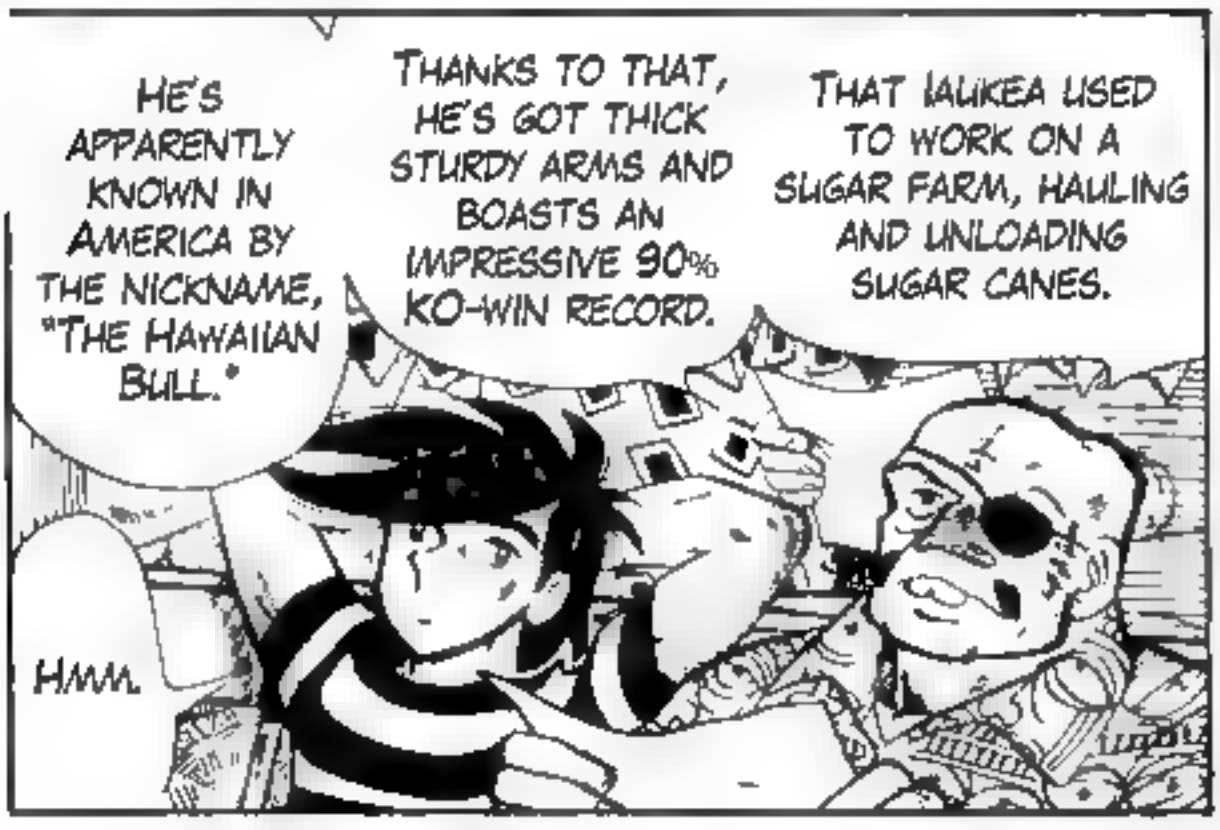
LOOKIN' GOOD, SAM!

JOSÉ MENDOZA STRUTS OUT SILENTLY BUT CONFIDENTLY!

SHOW US A GOOD MATCH, CHAMP!


TO THE CENTER!




HE'S APPARENTLY KNOWN IN AMERICA BY THE NICKNAME, "THE HAWAIIAN BULL."
THANKS TO THAT, HE'S GOT THICK STURDY ARMS AND BOASTS AN IMPRESSIVE 90% KO-WIN RECORD.
THAT IALIKEA USED TO WORK ON A SUGAR FARM, HAULING AND UNLOADING SUGAR CANES.
HMM.


WITH A ONE WEIGHT-CLASS GAP, THE TWO ARE VISIBLY DIFFERENT IN SIZE...

MENDOZA ALSO HAS A REPUTATION ACROSS THE WORLD FOR BEING A HARD-HITTER,

YES...

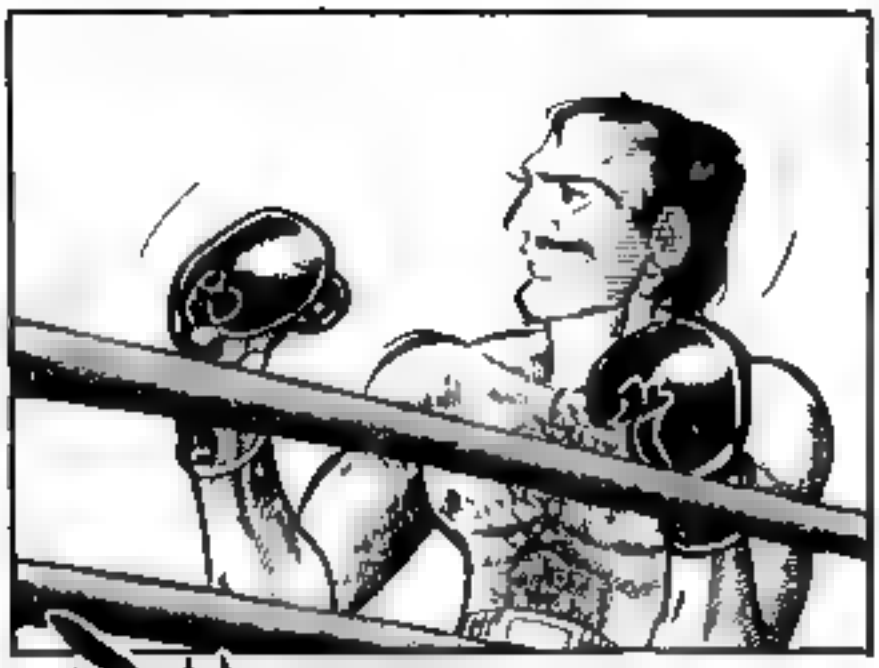
IF THE CHAMP HAS A TOUGH TIME AGAINST IALIKEA'S PUNCHES...

THEY'RE UNEXPECTEDLY VULNERABLE AGAINST OTHER HARD-HITTERS.

BUT BECAUSE HARD-HITTERS AREN'T USUALLY ON THE RECEIVING-END,

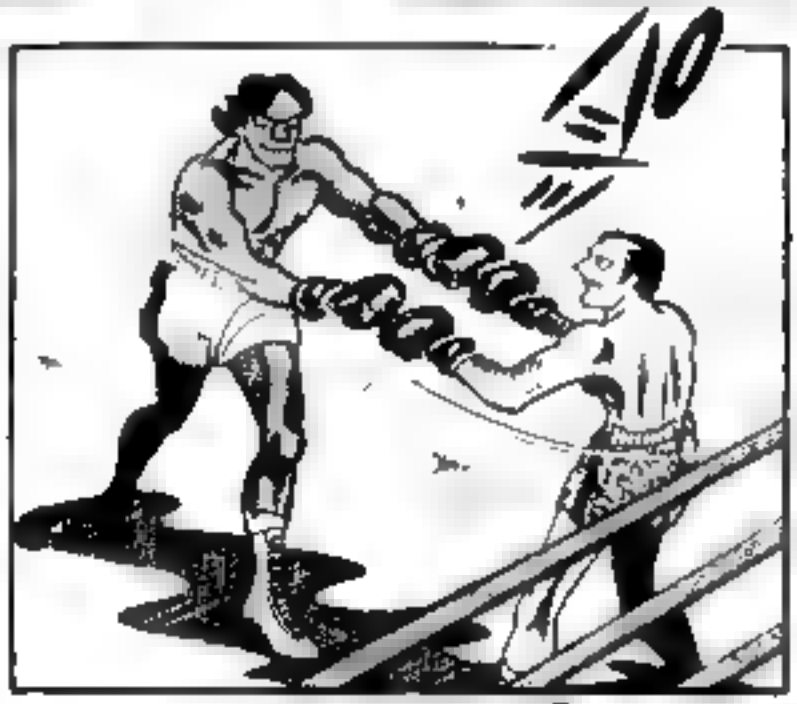
THEN IT MAY MEAN YABUKI'S OWN PUNCHES WILL STAND A GOOD CHANCE TOO, DON'T YOU THINK SO, MR. TANGE?

JOE WILL STAND A GOOD CHANCE IF MENDOZA TURNS OUT TO BE THAT KIND OF HARD-HITTER TOO...

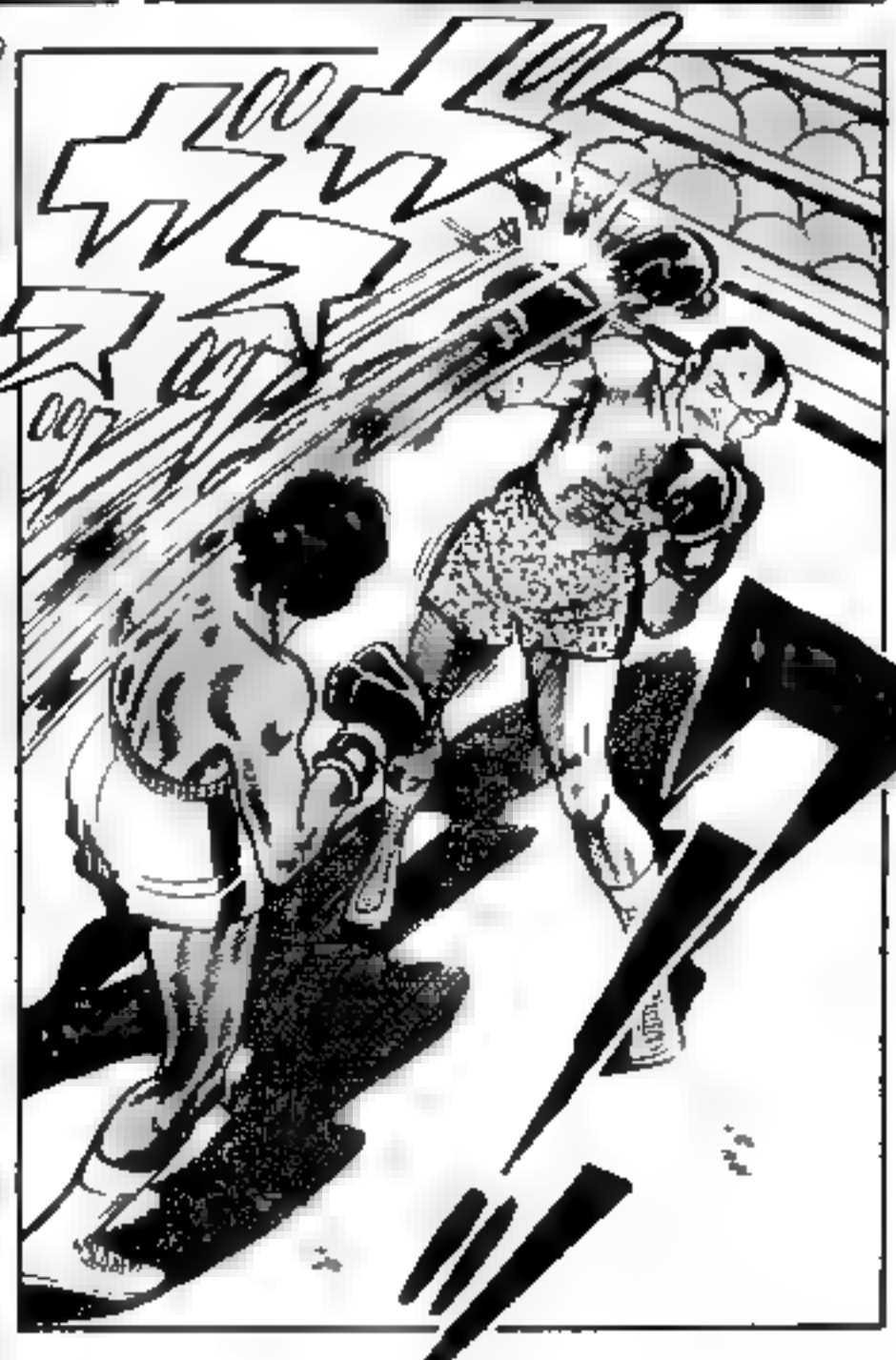




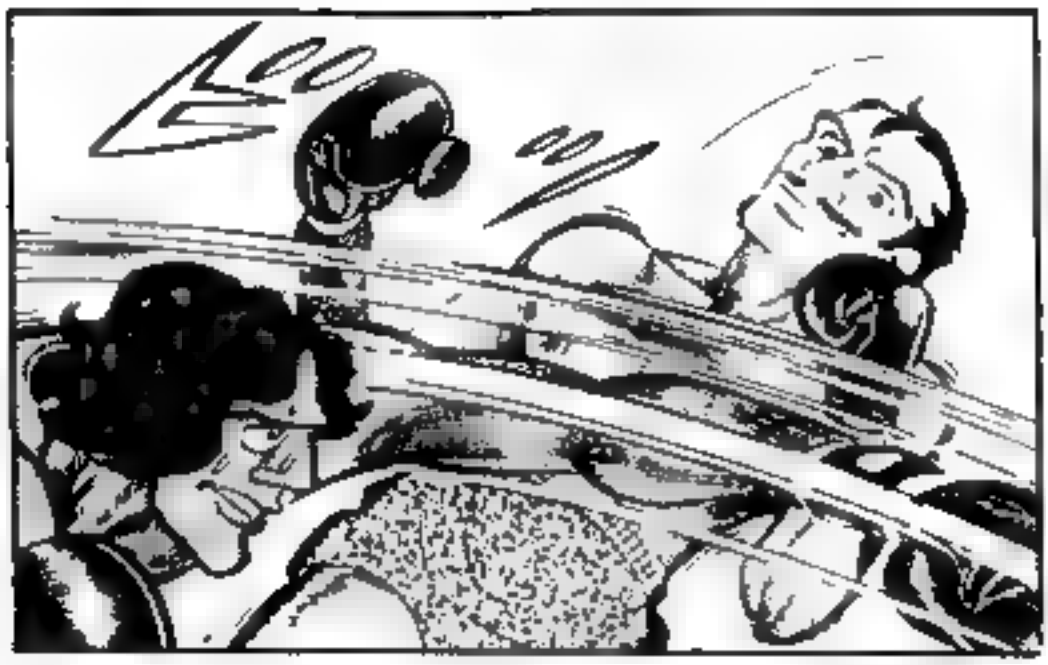


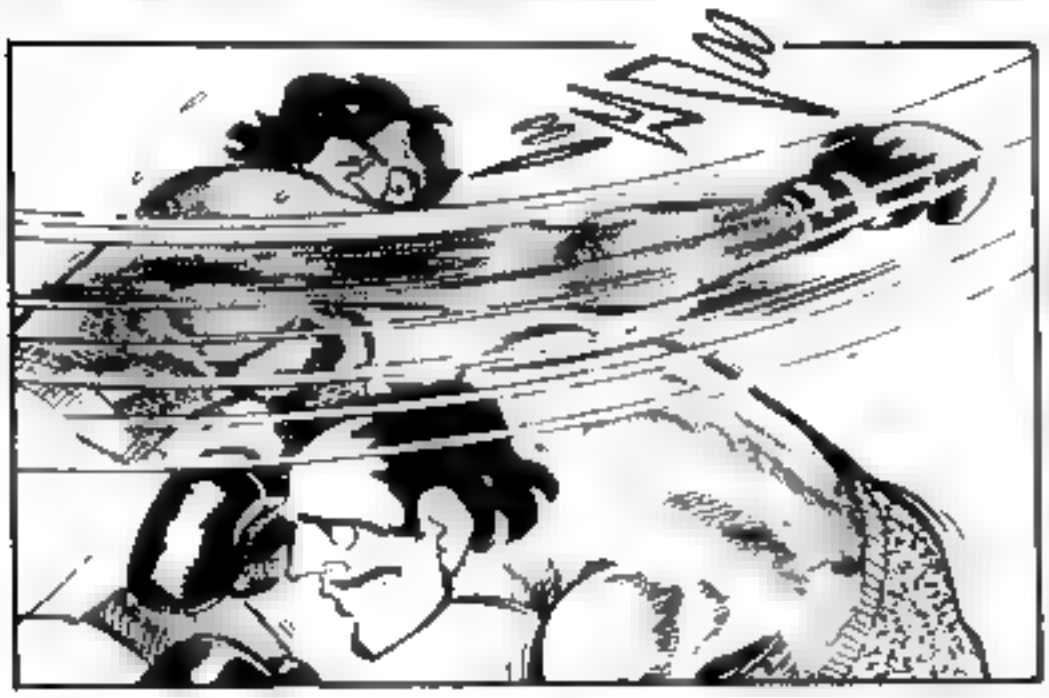




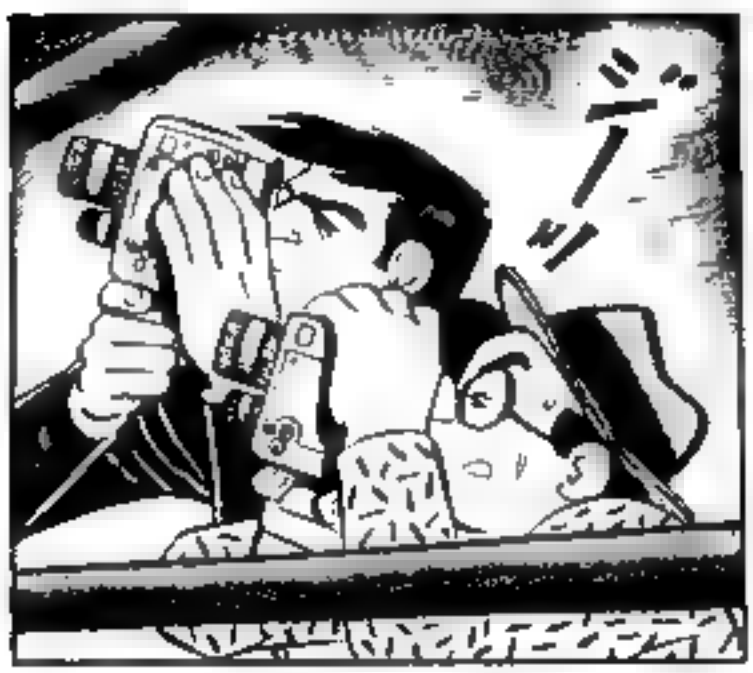


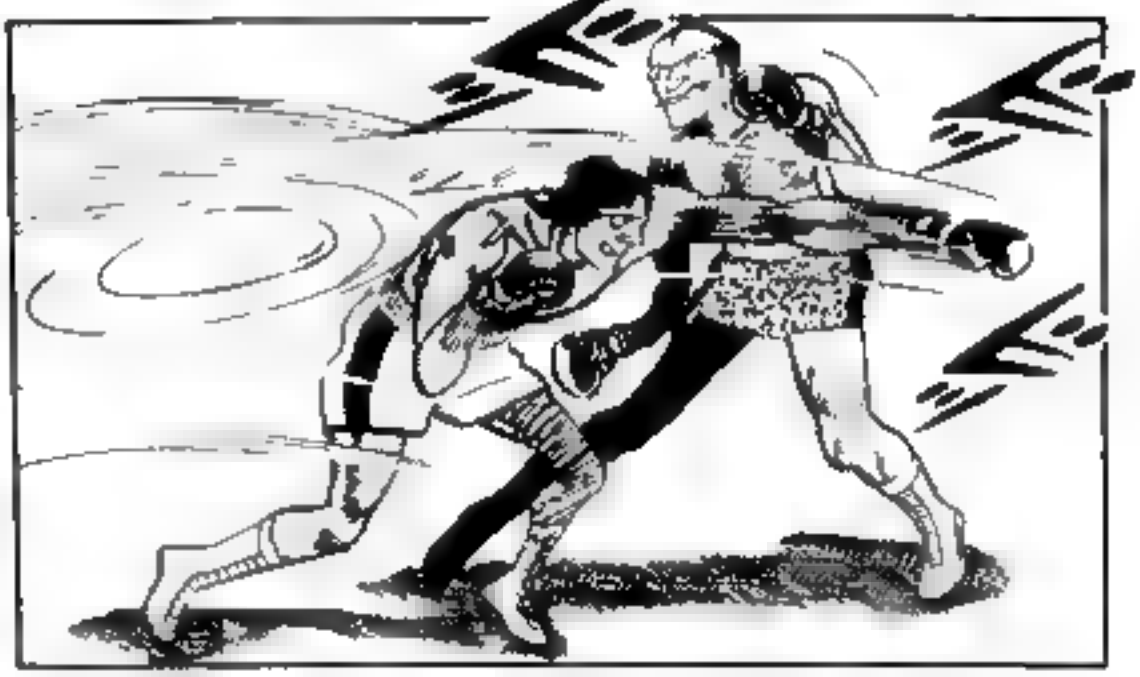

ALRIGHT!
SAM'S OUT ON THE ATTACK!
OHHH!



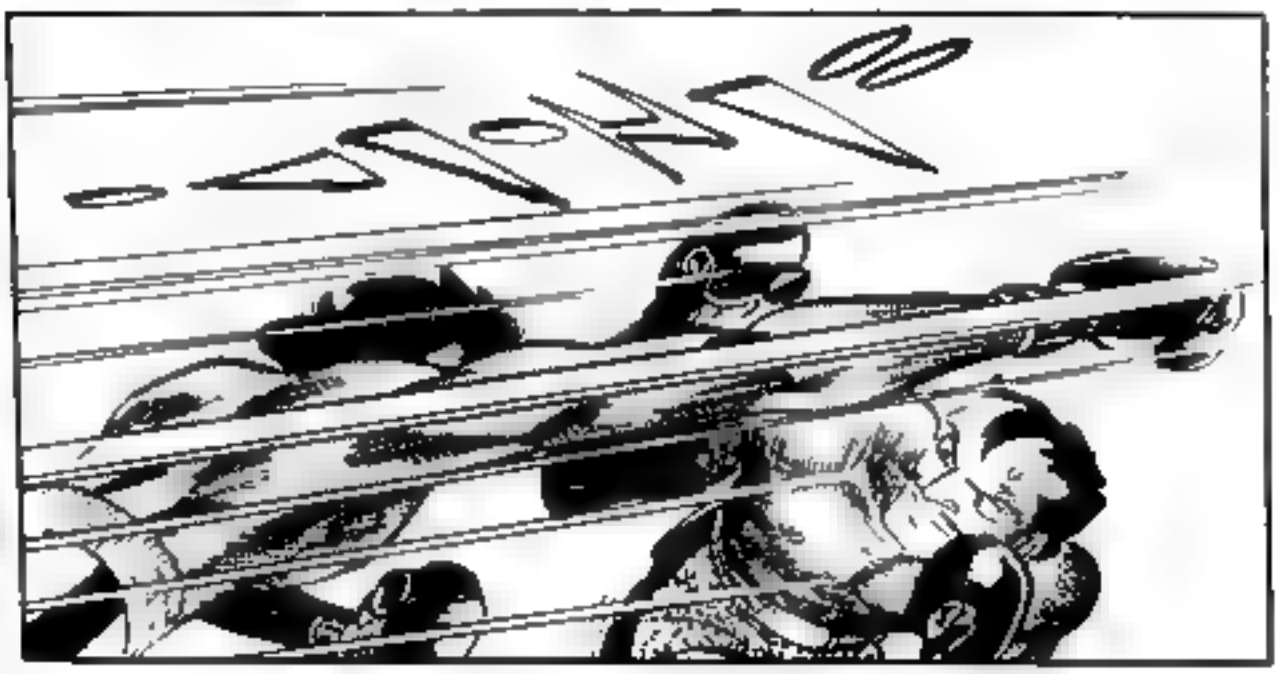












AHH-

NGHH...

HM?

MN...

NGHH!

PURPOSELY LETTING HIMSELF BE HIT.

HE'S..

...

...

AND IS SHOWING OFF HOW HE WON'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE AGAINST YOUR OR ANYONE ELSE'S PUNCHES...!

IT'S ALMOST AS IF HE HEARD WHAT WE WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT,

MENDOZA...

W... WHAT'RE YOU PLANNING,



HE'S LIKE A MAN WEARING A FULL SUIT OF ARMOUR OUT THERE!

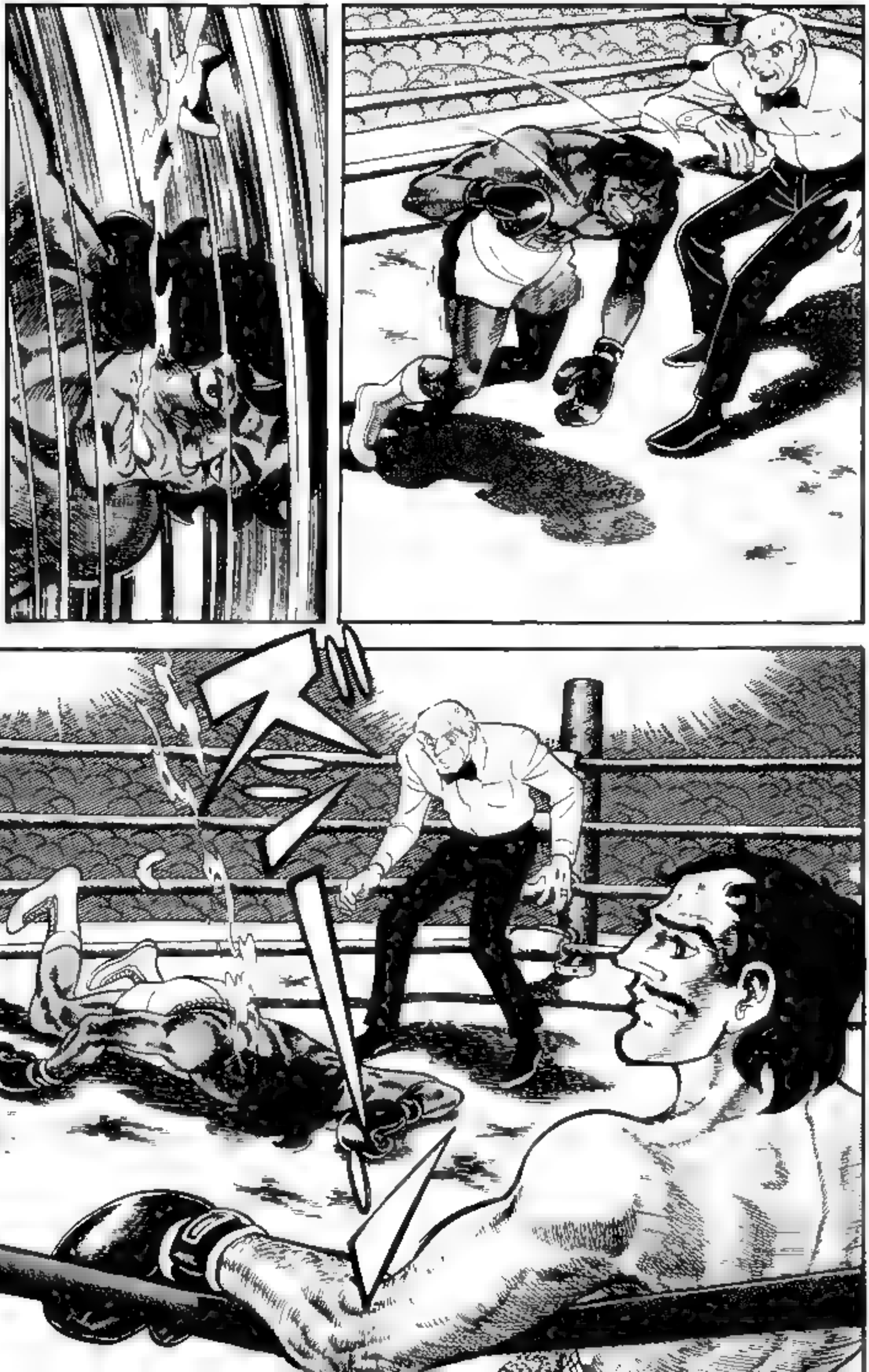
H-HE'S TOUGH...

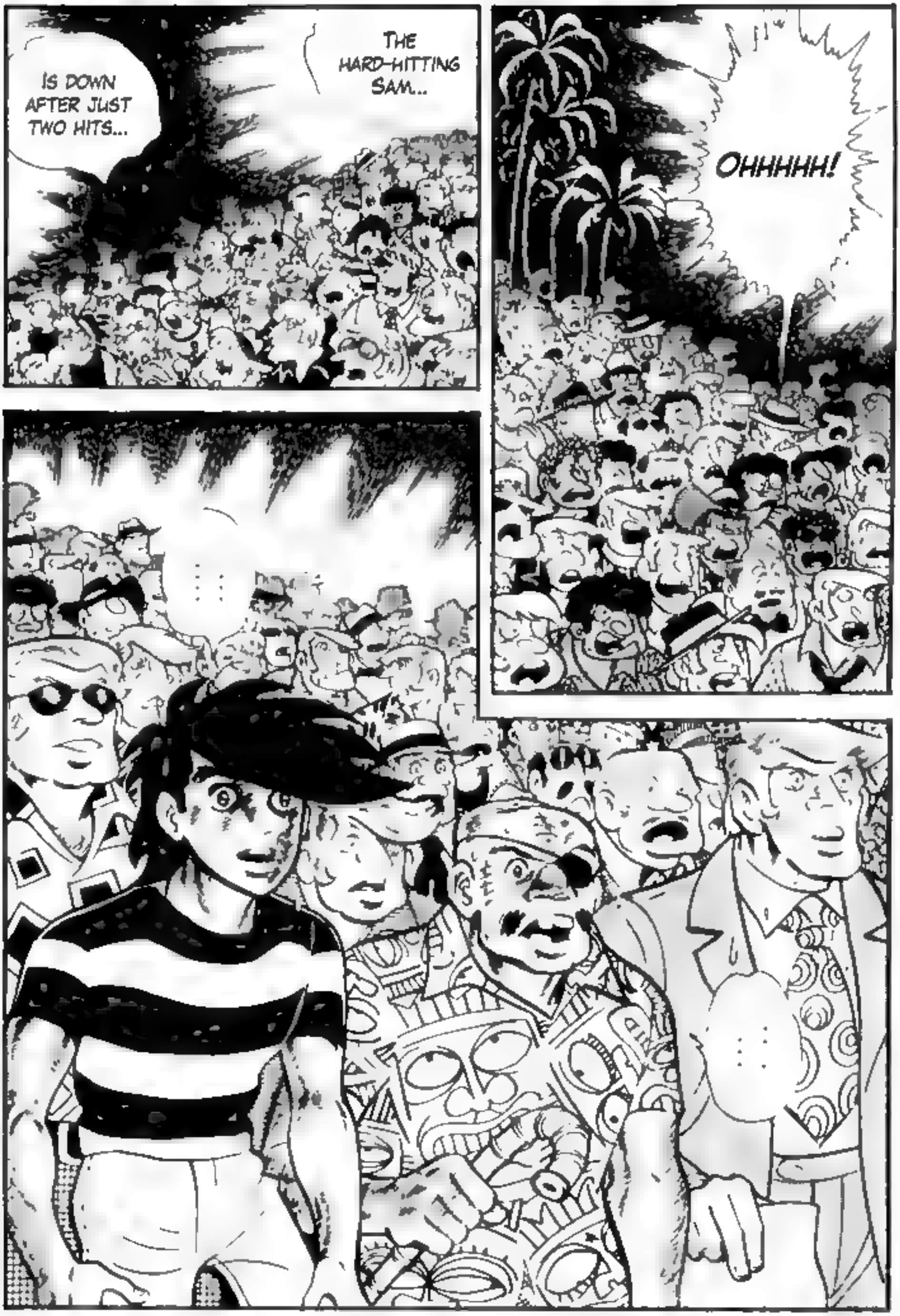
ｺｷｯ



W-WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE-

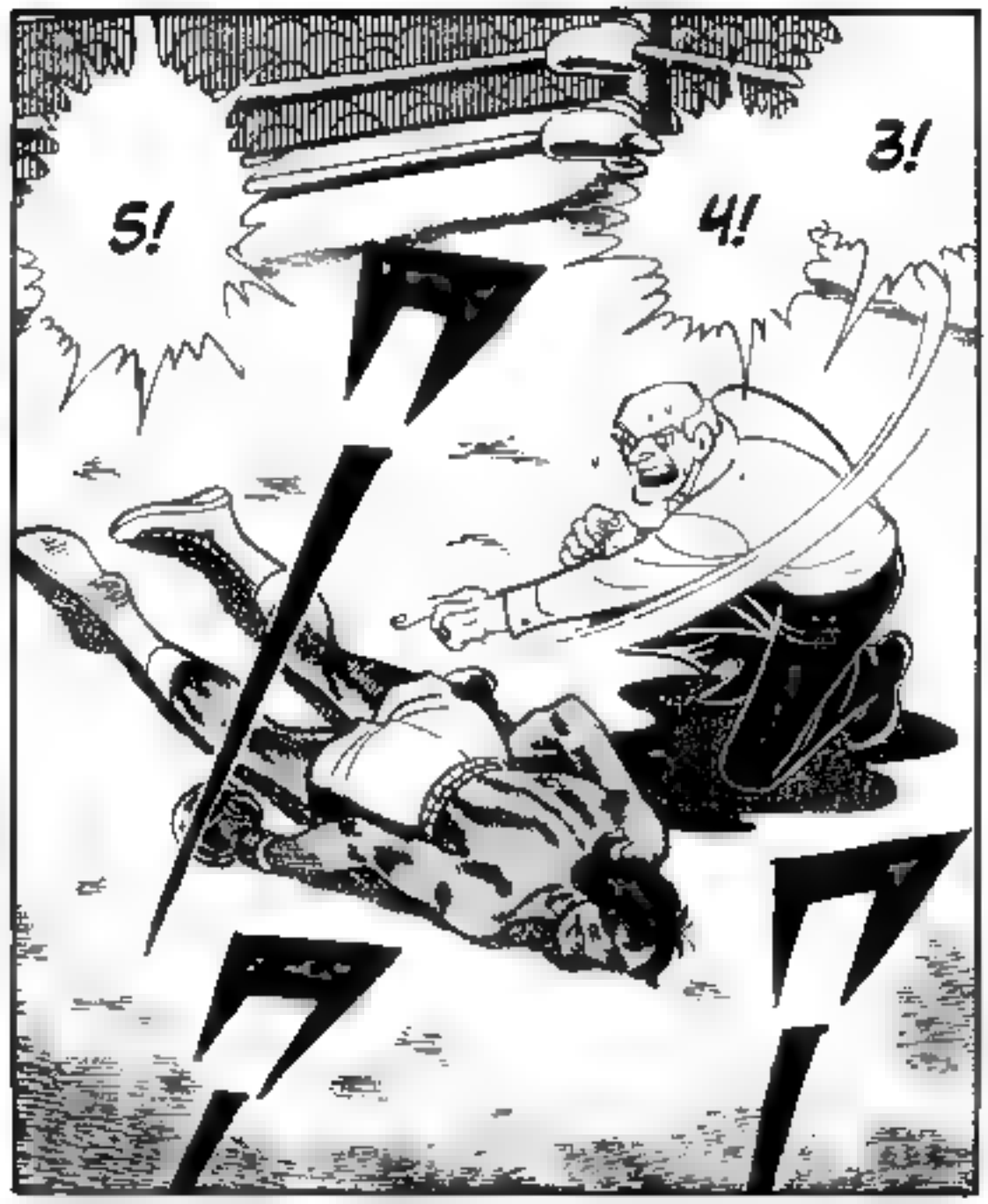
AH-




IS DOWN AFTER JUST TWO HITS...
THE HARD-HITTING SAM...
OHHHHH!


6...


SAM...?


5!
4!
3!


D-DOCTOR!



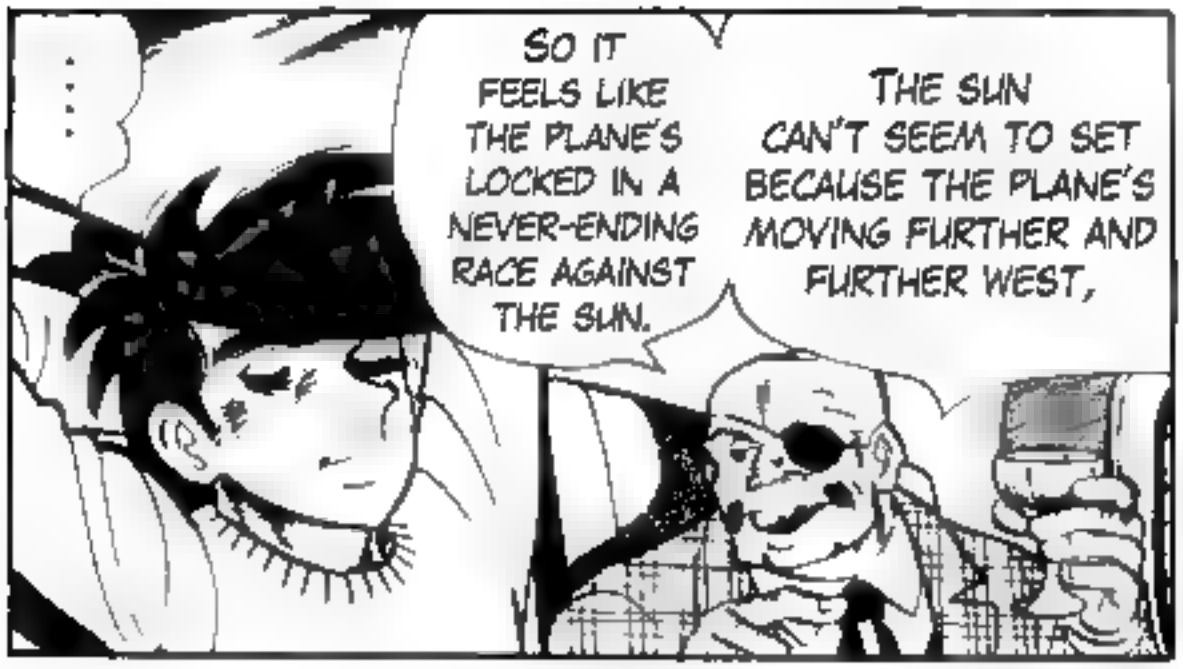

JUST 1 MINUTE AND 52 SECONDS INTO THE FIRST ROUND, THE CHAMPION JOSÉ MENDOZA WINS BY KO!
SAM
SAM
KO
KO

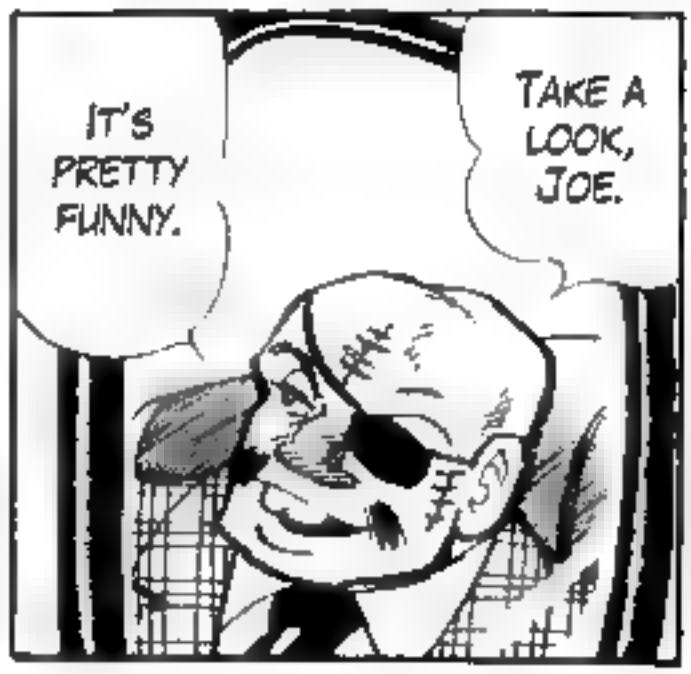

ALL ACROSS MY SWEAT-COVERED SKIN...
I'VE GOT GOOSEBUMPS RISING,

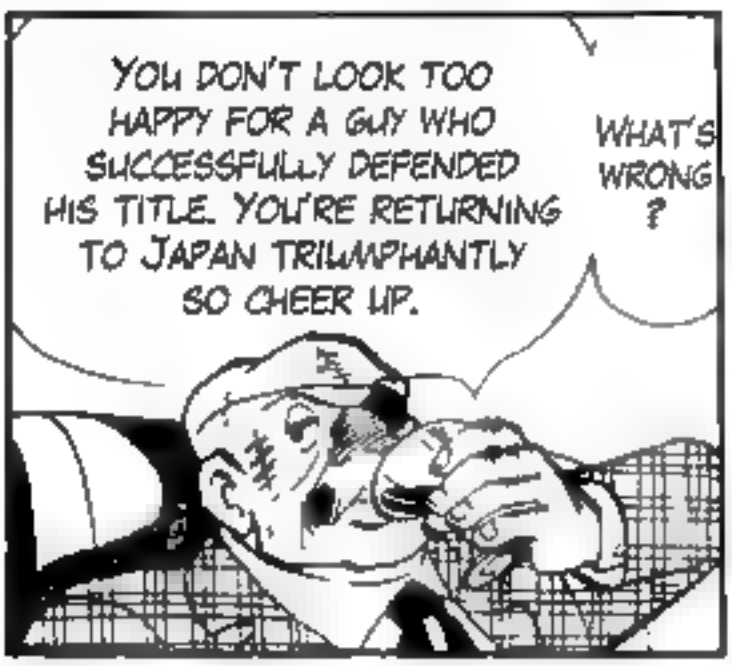

THE REAL DEAL...
HE'S...

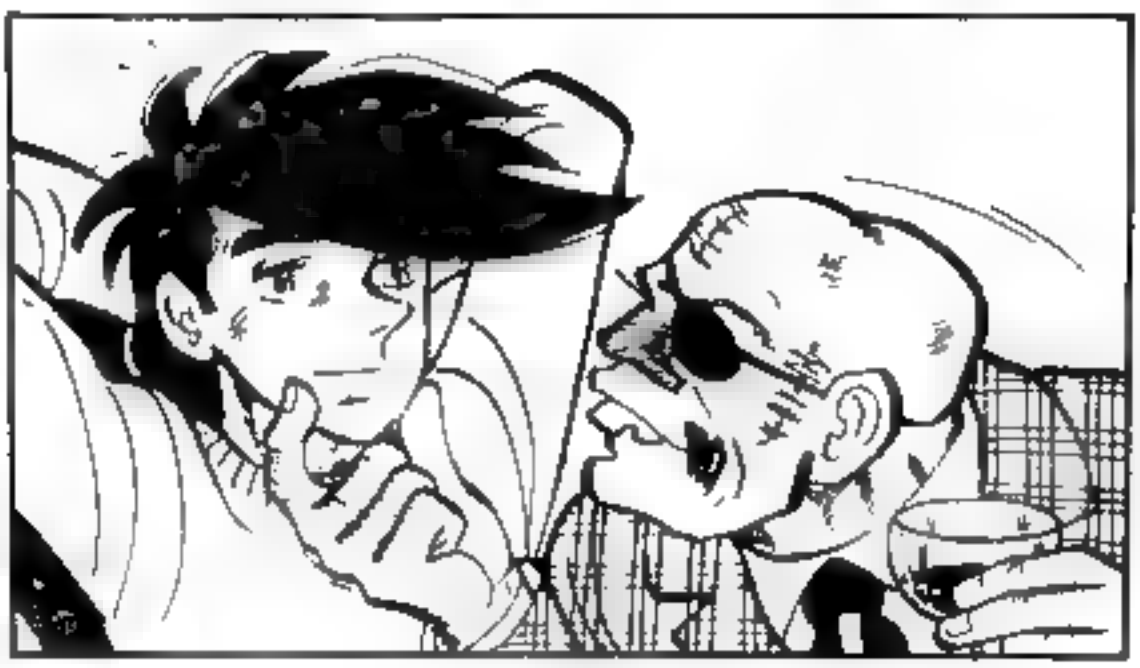

HE'LL SURELY BE KILLED...!
IF YABUKI, WERE TO CHALLENGE HIM...


HEH HEH.


.....
SO IT FEELS LIKE THE PLANE'S LOCKED IN A NEVER-ENDING RACE AGAINST THE SUN.
THE SUN CAN'T SEEM TO SET BECAUSE THE PLANE'S MOVING FURTHER AND FURTHER WEST,


IT'S PRETTY FUNNY.
TAKE A LOOK, JOE.


YOU DON'T LOOK TOO HAPPY FOR A GUY WHO SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED HIS TITLE. YOU'RE RETURNING TO JAPAN TRIUMPHANTLY SO CHEER UP.
WHAT'S WRONG ?



I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO LOOK AFTER SOME DRUNK WHO FALLS OFF THE AIRSTAIRS.

AND STOP DRINKING ALREADY.

STOP JOKING AROUND...

YOU WANT A GLASS?

HA...

A TRIUM-PHANT RETURN?

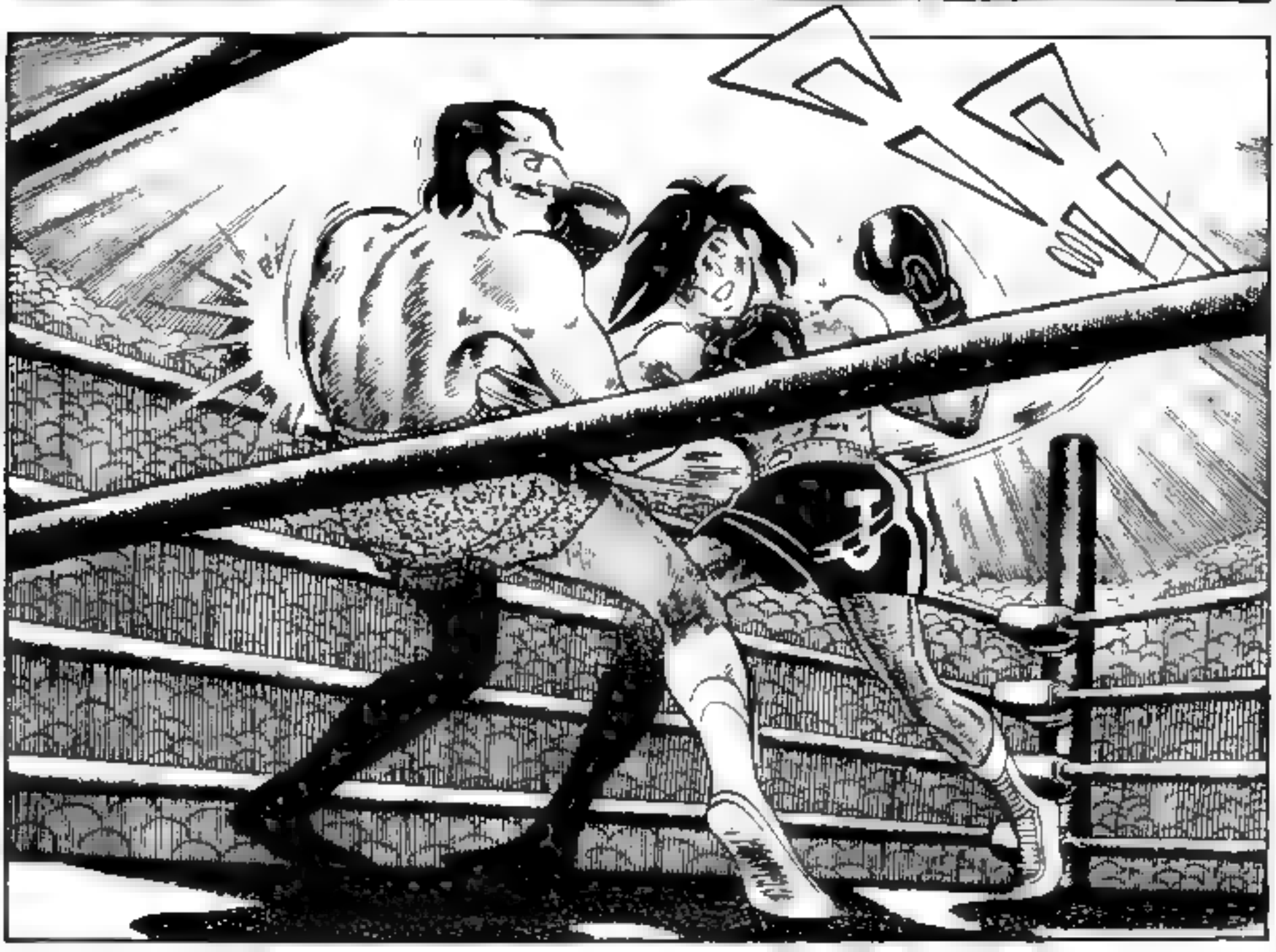
WHEN'D I EVER FALL OFF THE STAIRS?

HEH HEH. WHAT'RE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT?

THE ONLY THING I REMEMBER IS HOW STRONG MENDOZA WAS IN HIS CRUSHING VICTORY...

EVEN IF I DID DEFEND MY TITLE,





HAHA

D-DAMN IT!

HEH HEH.


JOEEEE!
....


3!


2!
1!


5!


4!


UGH...


6!


7!
5 00

AHHH...

HEH HEH.

8!

ARGH

HUFF HUFF

HUFF

W-WHAT'S WRONG, JOE?

WOULD YOU LIKE A TOWEL TO WIPE YOURSELF OFF?

SIR, YOU'RE PERSPIR-ING VERY HEAVILY




YOU MUST BE TIRED FROM THE LONG TRIP.
BUT DON'T WORRY, WE'LL SOON ARRIVE AT THE AIPORT IN TOKYO.





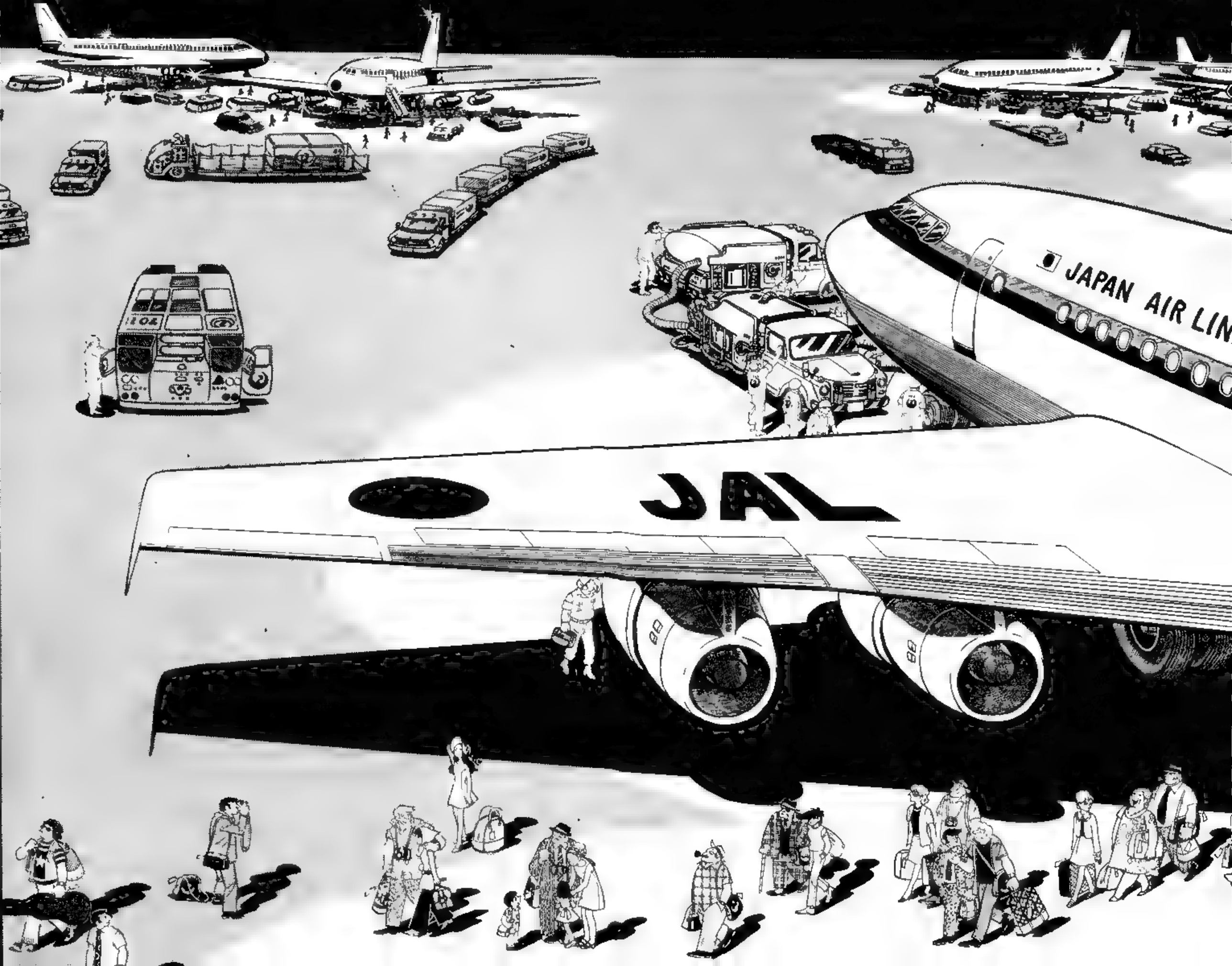





O-OH...
JOE, WE'RE HERE AT HANEDA AIRPORT.


YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE BEEN POSSESSED BY THE GRIM REAPER...
EVEN THOUGH YOU CRUSHED YOUR OPPONENT TO DEFEND YOUR TITLE,


PANAM


JAPAN AIR LIN
JAL

YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO TALK LOUDER OR I CAN'T HEAR YOU OVER THIS NOISE!

WHAT!?

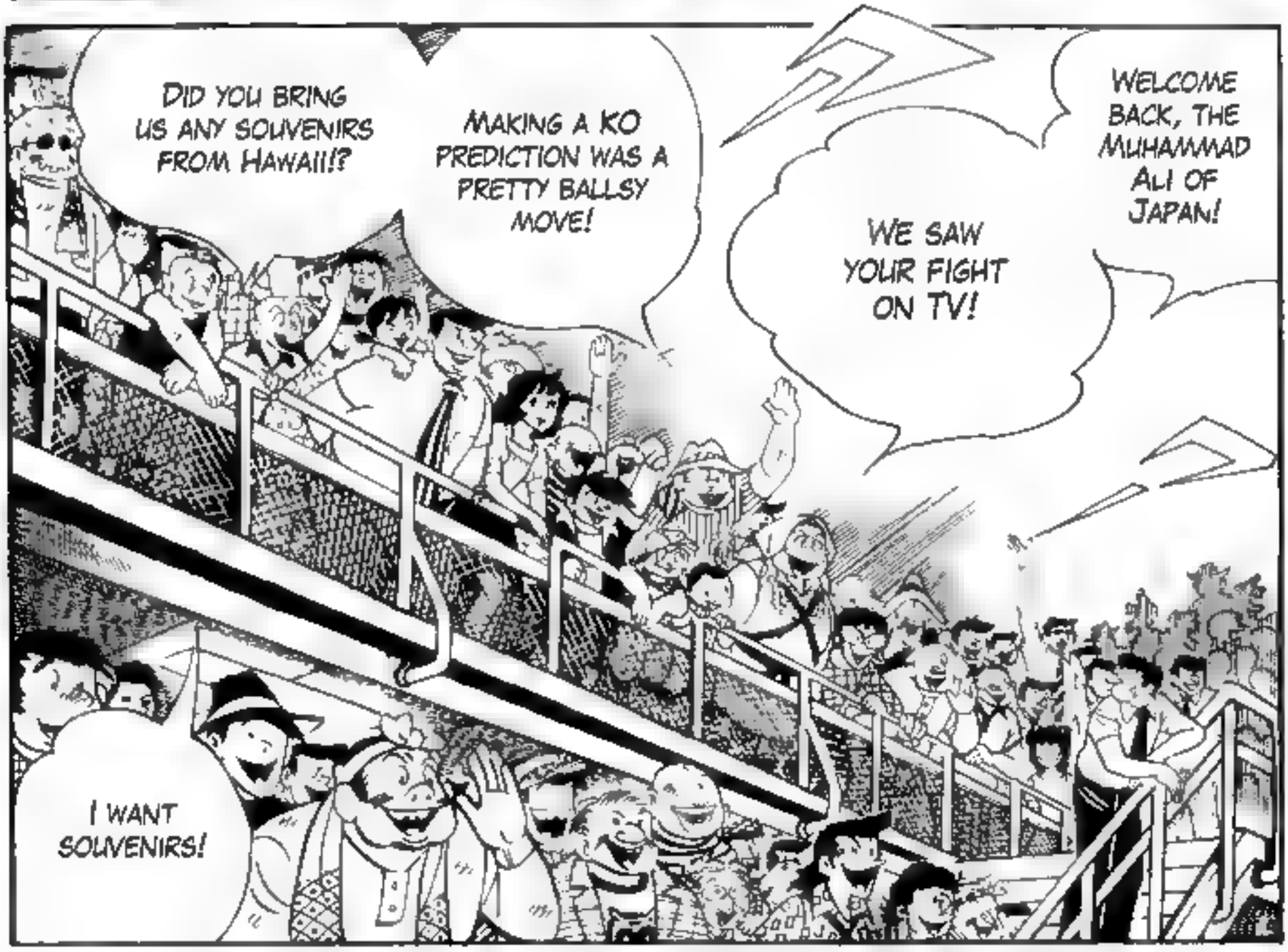
I SAID YOUR FANS ARE ALL WAVING YOU FROM UP THERE!

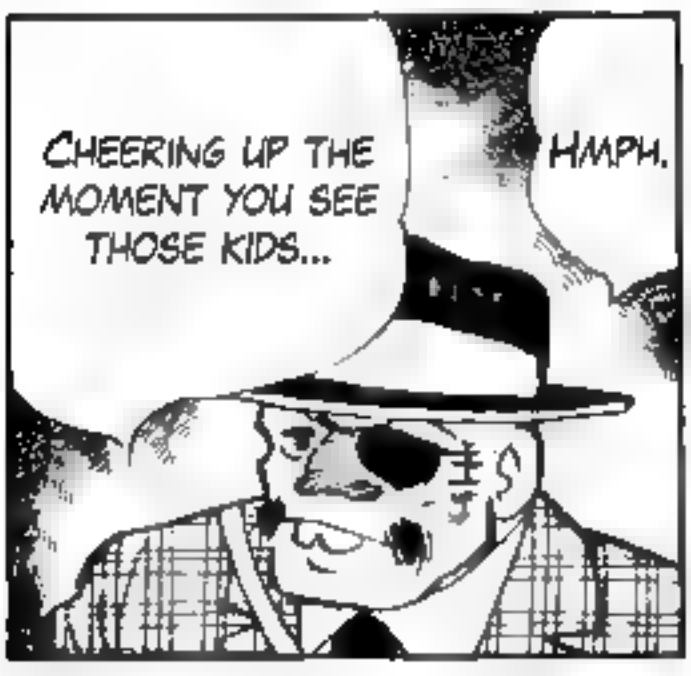
WELCOME HOME!

WELCOME BACK, BROTHER JOE!

AH...


NISHI AND NORIKO'S COME TOO.
AND TONKICHI TOO.
KINOKO, SACHI,
AH, IT'S TARO...


DID YOU BRING US ANY SOUVENIRS FROM HAWAII!?
MAKING A KO PREDICTION WAS A PRETTY BALLSY MOVE!
WE SAW YOUR FIGHT ON TV!
WELCOME BACK, THE MUHAMMAD ALI OF JAPAN!
I WANT SOUVENIRS!


CHEERING UP THE MOMENT YOU SEE THOSE KIDS...
HMPH.


I'LL COME OVER THERE REAL SOON!
YEAH, I BOUGHT A WHOLE BUTTLOAD!

I DON'T REMEMBER SEEING HER.

HUH? YOUKO CAME ON THE SAME PLANE AS US?

I'LL GO ON AHEAD, YABUKI.

YOU CAN RIDE FIRST CLASS TOO ONCE YOU BECOME THE WORLD CHAMP.

THAT'S BECAUSE SHE WAS RIDING FIRST CLASS.

THAT REALLY WAS A MARVELOUS FIGHT!

WELCOME BACK, PRESIDENT TANGE AND YABUKI!

HERE COMES DIRECTOR OOHASHI...


IT'S REALLY ALL THANKS TO YOU, CHAMP!
OUR CHANNEL BOASTED THE HIGHEST TV RATINGS FOR THE TIME BLOCK OF YOUR FIGHT'S BROADCAST.
WE'RE VERY GRATEFUL THAT YOU COULD COME OUT AND WELCOME US DESPITE YOUR BUSY SCHEDULE, DIRECTOR.


THERE'S A WHOLE FLOCK OF REPORTERS AND CAMERAMEN HERE WHO'RE JUST DYING TO GET AN INTERVIEW WITH YABUKI.
OH, IT'S NOT JUST ME WHO'S HERE TO WELCOME YOU BACK.
HARDLY SURPRISING AFTER YOUR INCREDIBLE SHOWMANSHIP OF KNOCKING OUT SARAWAK IN THE VERY ROUND YOU PREDICTED!
YOU ROUSED THE HEARTS OF ALL US BOXING FANS IN JAPAN!


iRO
OOH
OOH
OOH


YOUR POPULARITY IS SOARING ABOVE THE CLOUDS RIGHT NOW, MY FRIEND.
YOU MIGHT WANT TO START WEARING SOME SUNGLASSES OR YOU MIGHT EVEN GET HARASSED WHEREVER YOU GO, HAHAHA!


WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YA, CHAMP!
WELCOME BACK, YABUKI!
AGH-
SURPRISING, ISN'T IT?

KANTO TV TAKES GREAT PRIDE IN YOUR ASTONISHING POPULARITY.

WE'VE NEVER HAD SO MANY MEMBERS OF THE PRESS HERE AT THE AIRPORT TO CONGRATULATE A BOXER ON HIS VICTORIOUS FIGHT OVERSEAS!

YOU TOO, PRESIDENT TANGE!

PLEASE TAKE A SEAT RIGHT HERE.

YOU WERE BOLD ENOUGH TO MAKE A KO PREDICTION IN A FOREIGN LAND WHERE FEW PEOPLE COULD EVEN UNDERSTAND YOUR WORDS. NOW WAS THAT BECAUSE YOU WERE ALREADY QUITE CONFIDENT YOU COULD HANDLE THE CHALLENGER?

YABUKI,

BUT TARO AND THE OTHER GUYS ARE WAITING OUTSIDE...

THANK YOU, THANK YOU. YABUKI AND I HAVE NOW FINALLY RETURNED TO OUR MOTHERLAND.

'COURSE I WAS CONFIDENT.

CONFI-DENCE?

OH.

ANSWER THE REPORTERS!

COME ON, THEN.

NOT AT ALL.

FOR INSTANCE, WERE YOU WELL AWARE ABOUT HIS FIGHTING TACTICS OR HABITS...?

WAS THAT BECAUSE YOU RESEARCHED PINANG SARAWAK BEFOREHAND?

I ONLY HAD MENDOZA IN MY MIND DURING MY TIME THERE.

HE WASN'T EVEN IN MY SIGHTS.

IF YOU'VE GOT ANY OTHER QUESTIONS, ASK THE OLD MAN HERE INSTEAD.

IS THAT ENOUGH Q&A FOR YOU? LOOK, I'VE GOT FRIENDS WAITING FOR ME OUTSIDE.

D-DON'T BE STUPID!

TALK ABOUT CONFI-DENT!

OHH!

BOLD WORDS.

BUT DO YOU KNOW WHEN YOU'LL BE CHALLENGING THE WORLD CHAMPION?

SPEAKING OF MENDOZA... IT'S OBVIOUS YOUR NEXT GOAL IS THE WORLD-TITLE ITSELF,

SO JUST SIT YOUR ASS DOWN!

IT'D BE RUDE TO LEAVE AFTER THEY CAME ALL THE WAY HERE TO INTERVIEW YOU.

KANTO TV PLACES GREAT TRUST IN YABUKI'S ABILITIES,

AND WILL GLADLY ARRANGE A MATCH WITH JOSÉ MENDOZA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

CHALLENGING THE WORLD CHAMPION, HUH...

ALLOW ME TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION.

NICE GOING, KANTO TV!

SO AS TO EXCITE AND PLEASE EVERY BOXING FAN HERE IN JAPAN!

NOT ONLY THAT, I PROMISE TO YOU ALL THAT WE WILL HOLD THAT MATCH HERE IN TOKYO AND BROADCAST IT ON OUR NETWORK,

EXCELLENT!

HAHAHAHAHA!

EVEN IF WE DIDN'T WANT TO DO A STORY ON YABUKI, NONE OF OUR PAPERS WILL SELL WITHOUT HIM AFTER ALL.

I GUESS US REPORTERS WILL HAVE TO PICK UP THE PACE TOO!

WHA?

J-JOE...?

HUH? WHERE'D YABUKI GO?

WHERE'D THE MAN OF THE HOUR GO? WE CAN'T HAVE THE INTERVIEW WITHOUT HIM.

DAMN IT...

JOE! WHERE ARE YOU!?

YO!

THAT'S A HIGH-CLASS BRANDY CALLED NAPOLEON, YOU KNOW.

WHOA, SO THIS SOME FANCY AMERICAN BOOZE?

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YA...

WHAT A BEAUT!

KICHI! GEN! I BROUGHT YOU GUYS A BOTTLE TOO!

HEH HEH... IT'S MY FIRST TIME WEARING A HAWAIIAN SHIRT.

LOOKS GREAT ON YOU, TONKICHI!

D-DO I...?

IT LOOKS GREAT ON YOU, NISHI! YOU LOOK SWELL!

FUFU... DON'T I LOOK SEXY?

HEY, I DON'T WANT THIS WEIRD LOOKING GREMLIN? GIMME SOME BOOZE TOO!

IT'S CALLED A UKULELE, YOU DUNCE!

SO THIS IS FUKULELE, EH?

Y-YOU CAN'T PEDDLE GOODS HERE ON THE AIRPORT FLOOR!

HE'S BUSY RIGHT NOW SO COME BACK LATER!

UMM... WE WERE HOPING TO GET YABUKI'S AUTOGRAPH...

HEE HEE HEE! THIS HAT WILL DO JUST FINE FOR PANHANDLING!

UGHH...

DOES THIS FANCY DRESS SUIT ME?

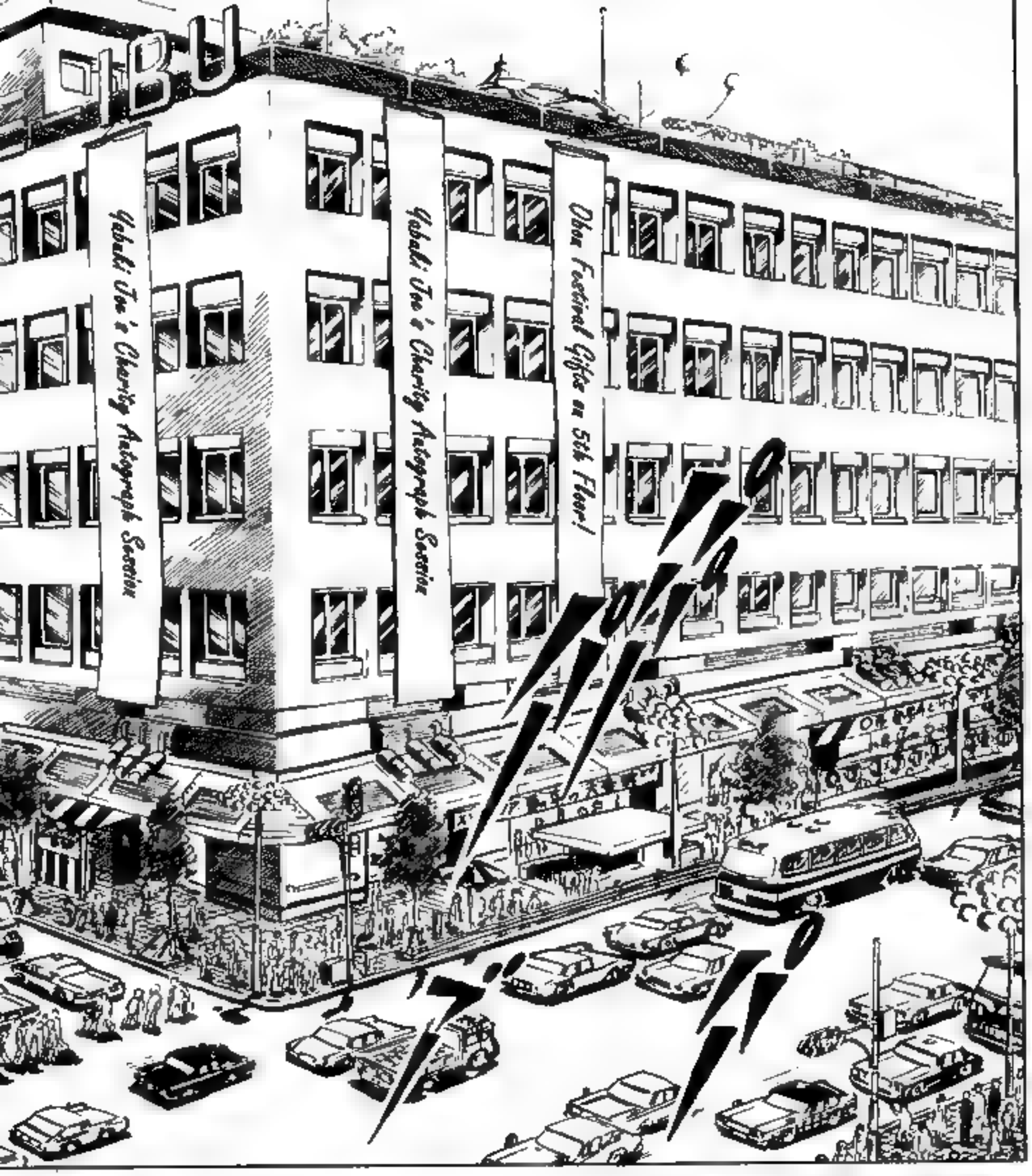
He simply laughed from the bottom of his heart for the first time in such a long while...

He even forgot that he was a boxer in that moment.

Surrounded by the kids and the rest of the Doya folk, Yabuki Joe forgot about José Mendoza for a moment.




KLM



The shining star of the boxing world!
Yabuki Joe's Charity Autograph Session
Sponsored by Yusaiscibu Dept. Store & Kanto TV


The shining star of the boxing w
ki Joe's Charity Autograp
d by Yasaibu Dept. Store & Kar
HURRY UP AND BEAT MENDOZA SO YOU CAN BE WORLD CHAMP!
KEEP UP THE KO-WINS, YABUKI!
YOU CAN'T ENTER FROM HERE!
YOU KIDDIN' ME? I CAN BARELY WRITE, LET ALONE DRAW!
DRAW ME A PICTURE TOO, YABUKI!
I NEED ANOTHER ONE FOR MY KID TOO.
THIS IS MY 3RD TIME GETTING HIS AUTOGRAPH TODAY.
HEE HEE. YOU KNOW, UP CLOSE, HE'S PRETTY CUTE.
PLEASE STOP PUSHING, SIRS!
REMAIN IN YOUR LINES!
I'M GONNA HAVE HIM SIGN MY STOMACH THIS NEXT TIME!
HMM... MAYBE I'LL HAVE HIM WRITE, "GOOD LUCK ON YOUR ENTRANCE EXAMS."

I DIDN'T EVEN FINISH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SO I'M WRITING MORE TODAY THAN I EVER HAVE IN MY ENTIRE LIFE!

I TOLD YOU TO STOP PUSHING! THE TABLE OVER HERE IS GONNA COLLAPSE!

WRITE, "TO SATOU YUUKO."

MAN, THIS IS PRACTICALLY A FORM OF TORTURE!

AWW CRAP, THERE'S STILL A WHOLE BUTTLOAD LINED UP. GIMME A BREAK ALREADY!

THIS IS ALL PART OF KANTO TV'S WAY TO MARKET YOU TO THE PUBLIC.

D-DON'T BE LIKE THAT, JOE. JUST SIT BACK DOWN.

HEE HEE.

HAHA HAHA!

BUT MAYBE THIS IS?

THAT AIN'T FUNNY,

HAS THERE BEEN ANY PROGRESS NEGOTIATING WITH YOUKO?

ABOUT THAT MATCH, THOUGH.

THE BETTER YOU CAN PLAY ALONG WITH THE MEDIA, THE MORE SUPPORT KANTO TV WILL PROVIDE IN ARRANGING THAT MATCH WITH MENDOZA.

WE'RE LIVING IN THE AGE OF THE MEDIA. A BOXER CAN'T GET BY JUST ON HIS STRENGTH ALONE.

PLEASE REMAIN IN YOUR LINES!

. . . .

I DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE'S PLANNING, BUT SHE'S REFUSED TO MEET WITH DIRECTOR OOHASHI DESPITE HIS DAILY VISITS.

W-WELL, UMM...

ALRIGHT, HOLD ON JUST A MOMENT!

SHAKE MY HAND, JOE!

SIGN HERE!

GOD DAMN IT...

Yabuki Joe's Charity

Sponsored by Yunaiba

EVEN IN A BOXING MATCH, THE PLAYERS GET A BREAK TIME, YOU KNOW!

STOP GETTING SO CRAZY OVER MY BARELY LEGIBLE HANDWRITING!

Y-YABUKI?

W-WHERE YOU GOIN' JOE!?

SO MOVE IT!

TAKE ME TO AOYAMA!

JOE, WAIT!

AH! ISN'T THAT YABUKI JOE, THE BOXER WHO MADE THAT KO PREDICTION IN HAWAII RECENTLY?

LOOK, IT'S THE PACIFIC CHAMPION, YABUKI JOE.

THERE'S NO USE IN HIDING HER! I KNOW SHE'S HERE!

LET ME SEE SHIRAKI YOUKO!

S.B.C

SHE'S TRAVELLING OVERSEAS AT THE MOMENT SO SHE'S ABSENT PRESENTLY

W-WE'RE NOT HIDING HER.

SHIRAKI BOXING CLUB

OVER-SEAS?

TRAVELLING ALL OVER THE WORLD WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT TO HER EXPENSES!

THAT WOMAN SURE GETS AROUND...

SHE'S TAKING A QUICK LOOK AROUND SOUTHEAST ASIA SO SHE SHOULD BE BACK IN JAPAN SHORTLY...

Y-YES, SIR...

I'VE GOT A NEGOTIATION TO MAKE WITH HER ASAP!

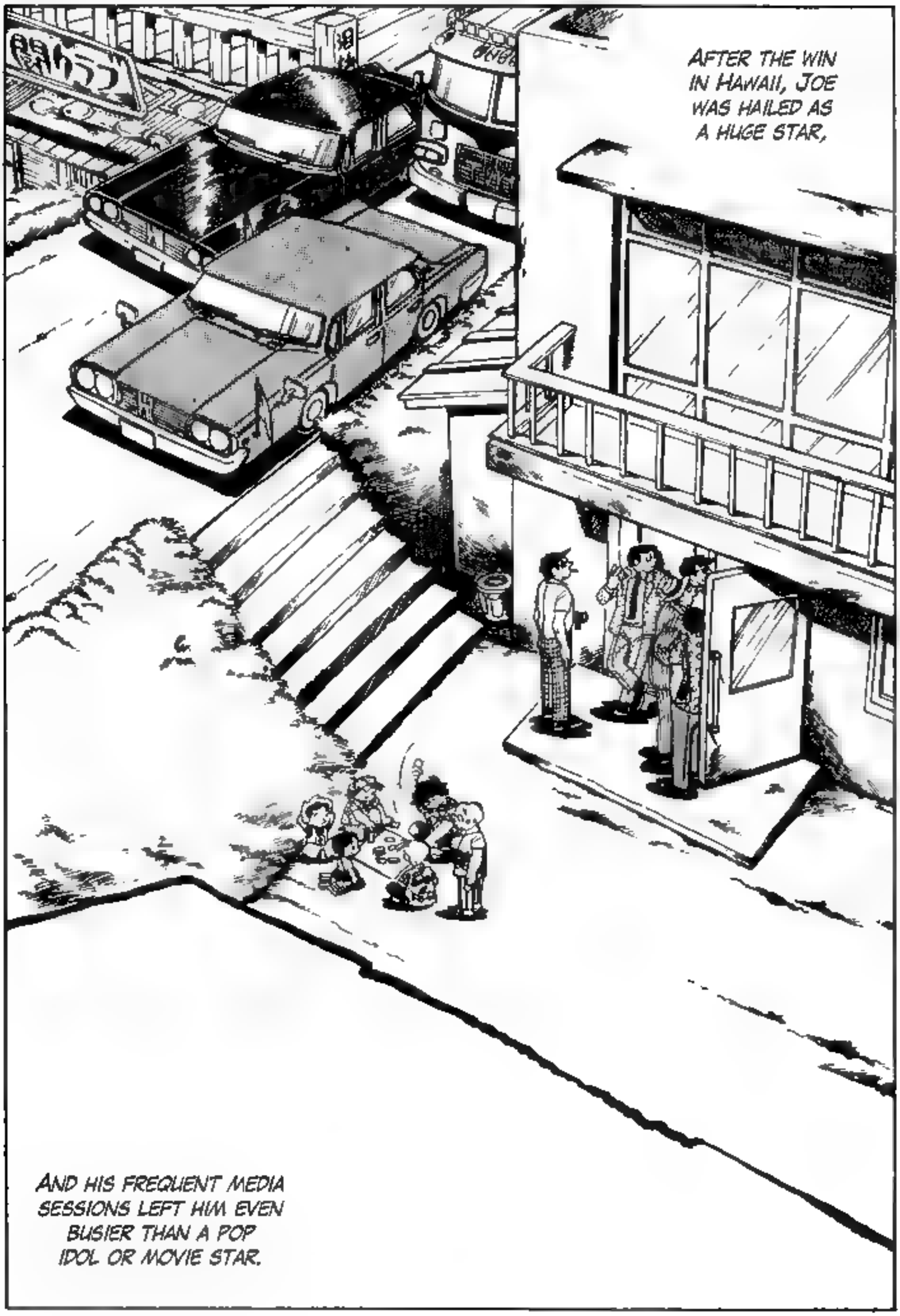
WELL, WHEN SHE COMES BACK, TELL HER TO GET BACK TO ME!

LET'S HURRY BACK.

THE FANS AT THE AUTOGRAPH SESSION ARE GETTING RESTLESS 'CAUSE YOU'RE KEEPING THEM WAITING.

JUST AS I THOUGHT, YOU'RE HERE...

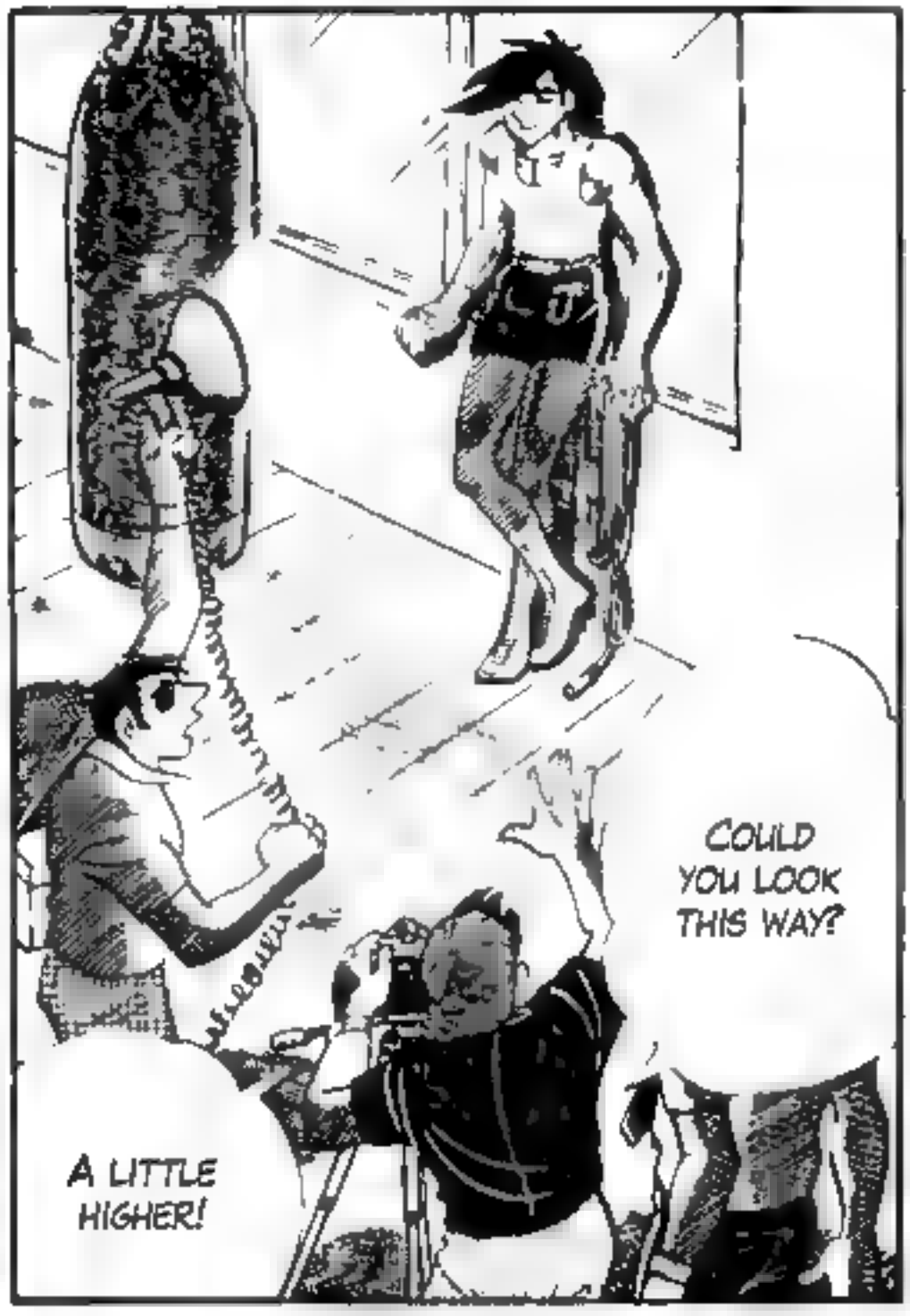
FINE...


AFTER THE WIN IN HAWAII, JOE WAS HAILED AS A HUGE STAR,
AND HIS FREQUENT MEDIA SESSIONS LEFT HIM EVEN BUSIER THAN A POP IDOL OR MOVIE STAR.








COULD YOU LOOK THIS WAY?
A LITTLE HIGHER!

ARE YOU READY THEN?

OUR MAGAZINE WANTS TO HAVE A FOLDOUT FULL-BODY SPREAD FOR YOU.

LIKE THIS?

....

CAN I ASK YOU TO SMILE JUST A BIT?

YOUR EXPRESSION'S A LITTLE GLUM.

JUST SMILE NATURALLY

HAHA, STOP JOKING AROUND.

MAN, YOU GUYS CAN BE ANNOYING...

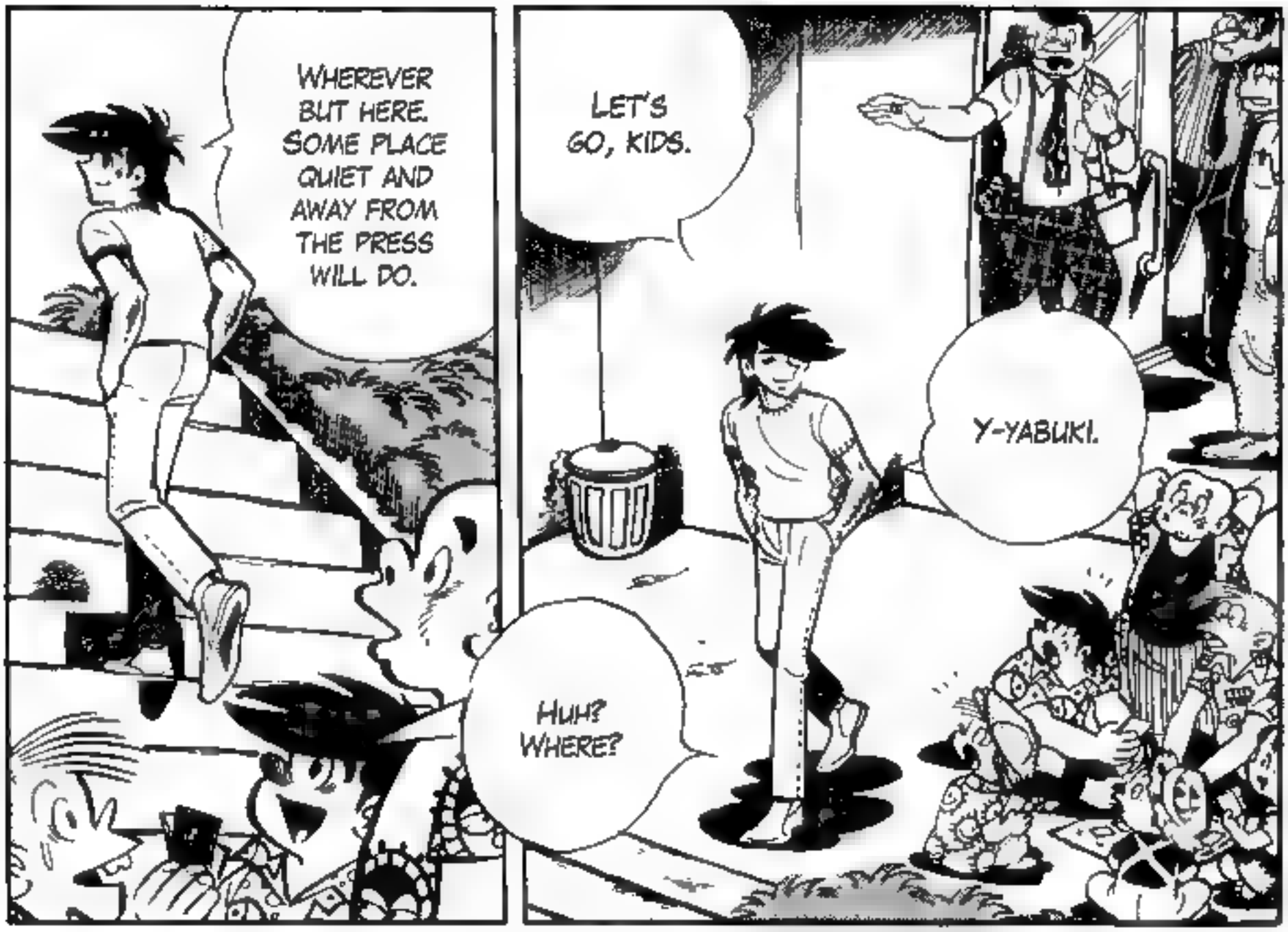
N-NO...

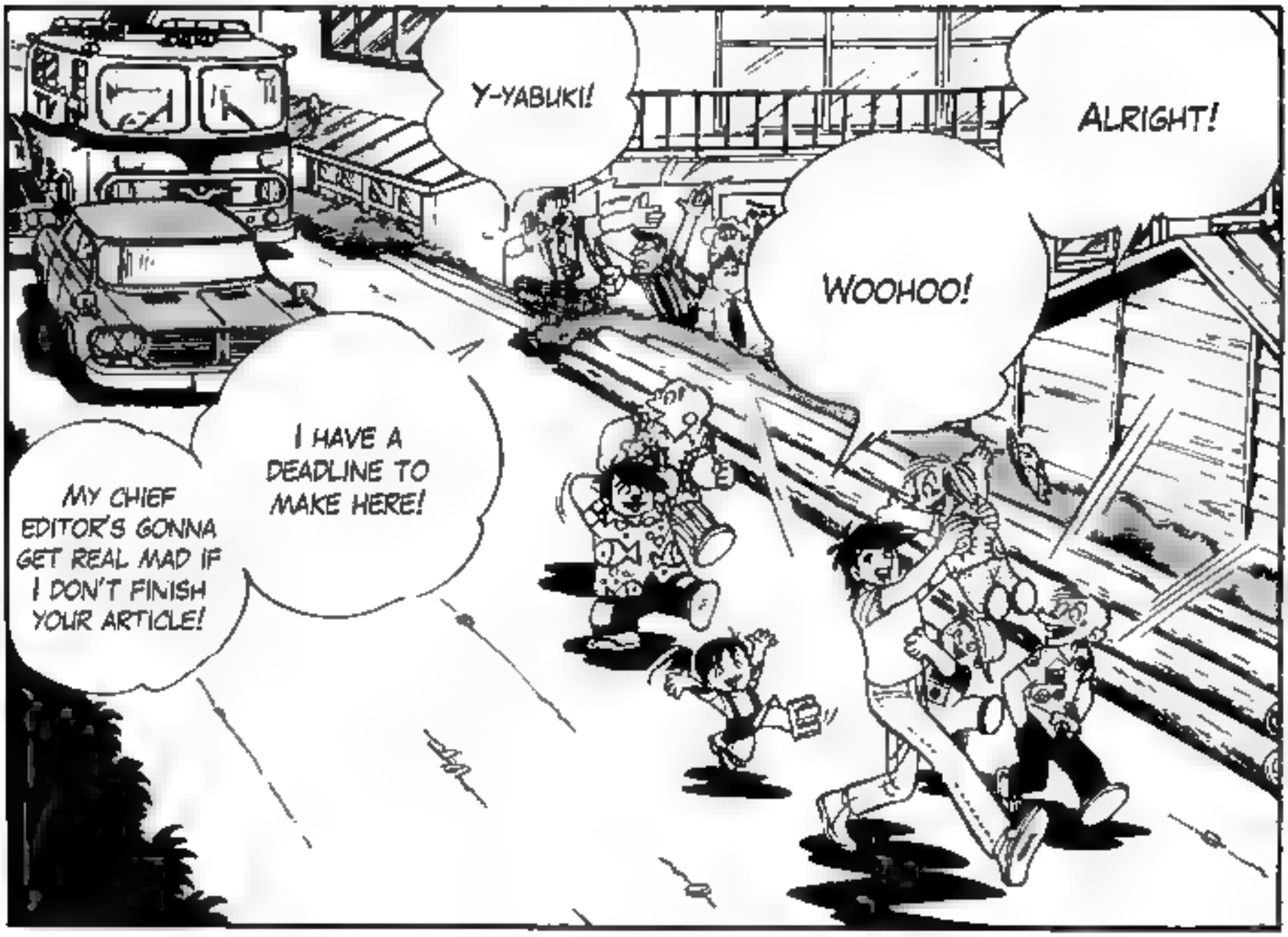
BUT IT IS ABOUT TIME HE SHOULD BE BACK...

IS HE NOT BACK YET?

HEY, KOUNO! WHERE'S THE OLD MAN!?


MUST BE TOUGH BEING HIM...
I'M GONNA HEAD ON OUT THEN.
GOOD ENOUGH, RIGHT?
SO JUST HURRY UP AND TAKE THE PICTURE ALREADY!
LOOK, I AIN'T NO ACTOR. I CAN'T JUST SMILE *NATURALLY* 'CAUSE YOU TELL ME TO.
O-OK..
WE STILL HAVEN'T FINISHED OUR INTERVIEW.
AH! NO, WAIT!
WHERE'RE YOU GOING?


WHEREVER BUT HERE. SOME PLACE QUIET AND AWAY FROM THE PRESS WILL DO.
LET'S GO, KIDS.
Y-YABUKI.
HUH? WHERE?


Y-YABUKI!
ALRIGHT!
WOOHOO!
I HAVE A DEADLINE TO MAKE HERE!
MY CHIEF EDITOR'S GONNA GET REAL MAD IF I DON'T FINISH YOUR ARTICLE!

I BET YOU COULD BUY A LOT OF BOOZE BY TAKING THOSE CAMERAS TO THE PAWN SHOP.

HEY, THOSE REPORTERS OVER THERE HAVE SOME FANCY CAMERAS.

YABUKI JOE!

DAMN, THEY'RE PERSISTENT.

HEE HEE HEE.

WAIT, MISTER!

C'MON, WAIT A SEC.

N-NO, THAT'S MY-

AHAHAH!

BEEN A REAL LONG TIME SINCE I CAME HERE...

THIS TAKES ME BACK.

SURE DID...

HEH HEH. THIS USED TO BE YOUR BASE, DIDN'T IT? YOU USED TO SPEND YOUR TIME CONNING PEOPLE AND GETTING CHASED BY THE FUZZ.

AND THAT OLD MAN CAME CRASHING IN HERE ON THAT SNOWY DAY

AND HAD ME PACKED AWAY TO JUVIE.

HE BEAT ME TO A BLOODY PULP,

THIS SAFE WITH A HOLE IN THE BACK'S STILL HERE.

EWW, COBWEB!

ACHOO!

I SURE HAVE BEEN THROUGH A WHOLE LOT SINCE THEN.

THINKING BACK ON IT NOW,

JOE!

ARE YOU THERE, JOE!?

HMM...

WHAT?

THE DRIVER HERE IS WAITING FOR YOU SO HURRY ON DOWN!

IT'S TIME FOR YOUR TV SPOT!

WHEN'D YOU BECOME A TALENT AGENCY MANAGER?

I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW I'M STILL A BOXER.

IF I HAVE TO KEEP ON WITH THIS BUSY SCHEDULE WHERE I CAN'T EVEN TRAIN PROPERLY, THEN TO HELL WITH KANTO TV AND YOUKO...

EVEN PATIENCE HAS A LIMIT.

BE A LITTLE PATIENT.

YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO BEAR WITH IT UNTIL THAT TITLE-MATCH IS SCHEDULED.

WHAT ?

MS. YOUKO WILL BE HOLDING AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING YOUR FIGHT WITH MENDOZA TONIGHT

DON'T BE SO RASH.

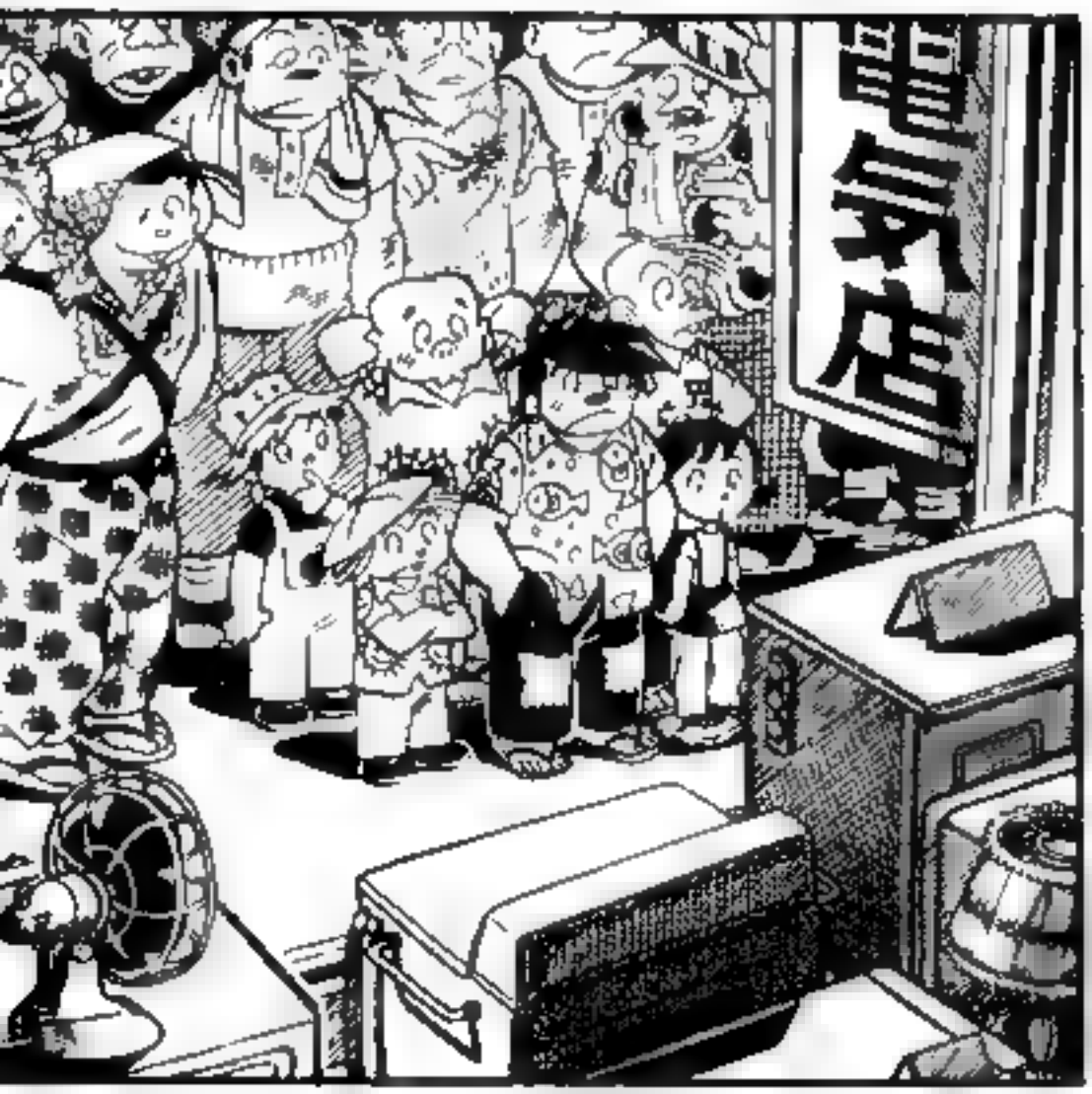
YOU LISTENIN' TO ME!?

I'LL JUST FLY OVER AND CHALLENGE MENDOZA MYSELF!

DRIVER, LET'S GET GOING.

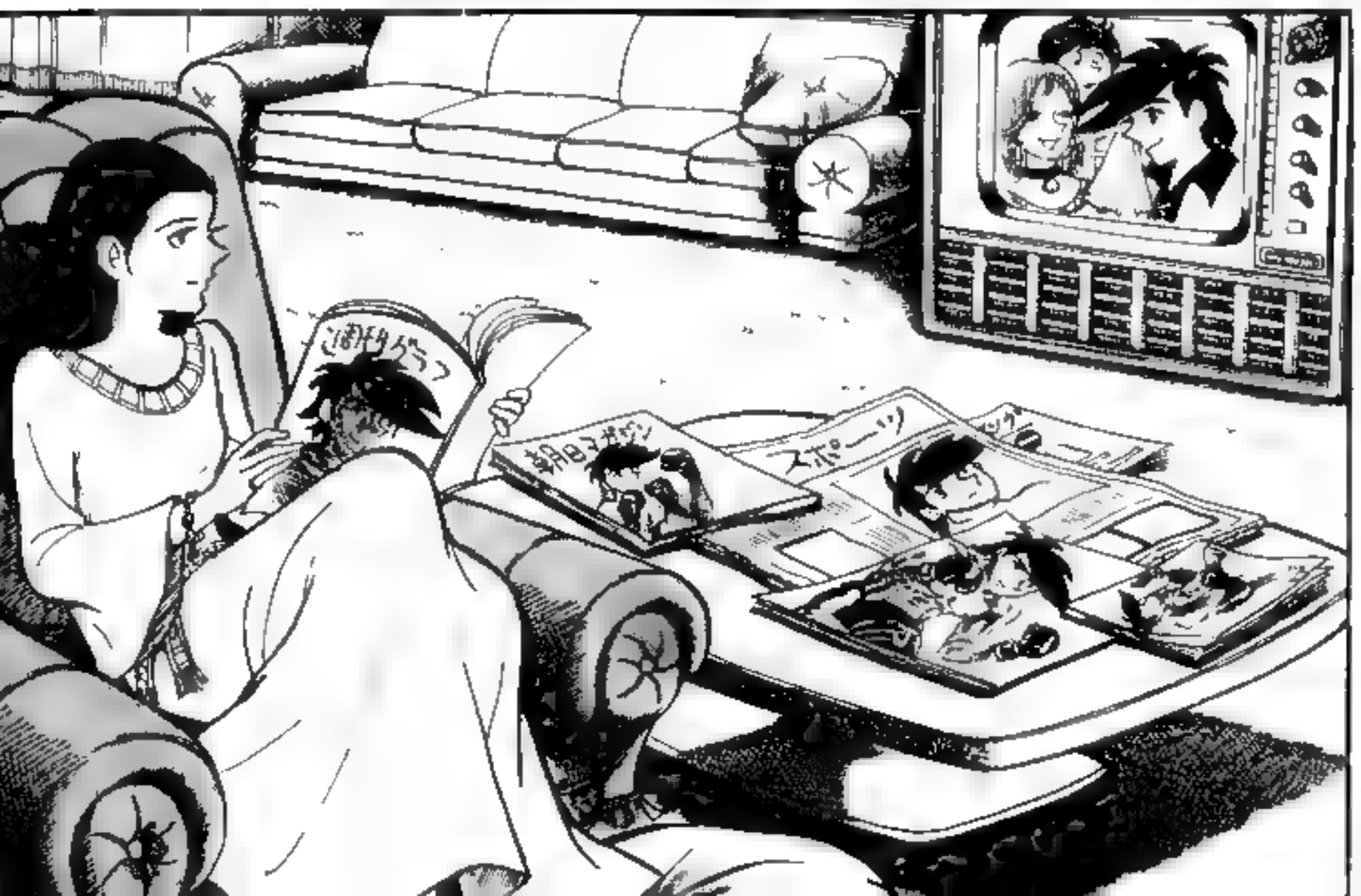
YES, WE'LL BE HEADING OVER TO SHIRAKI GYM AFTER YOUR TV APPEARANCE.

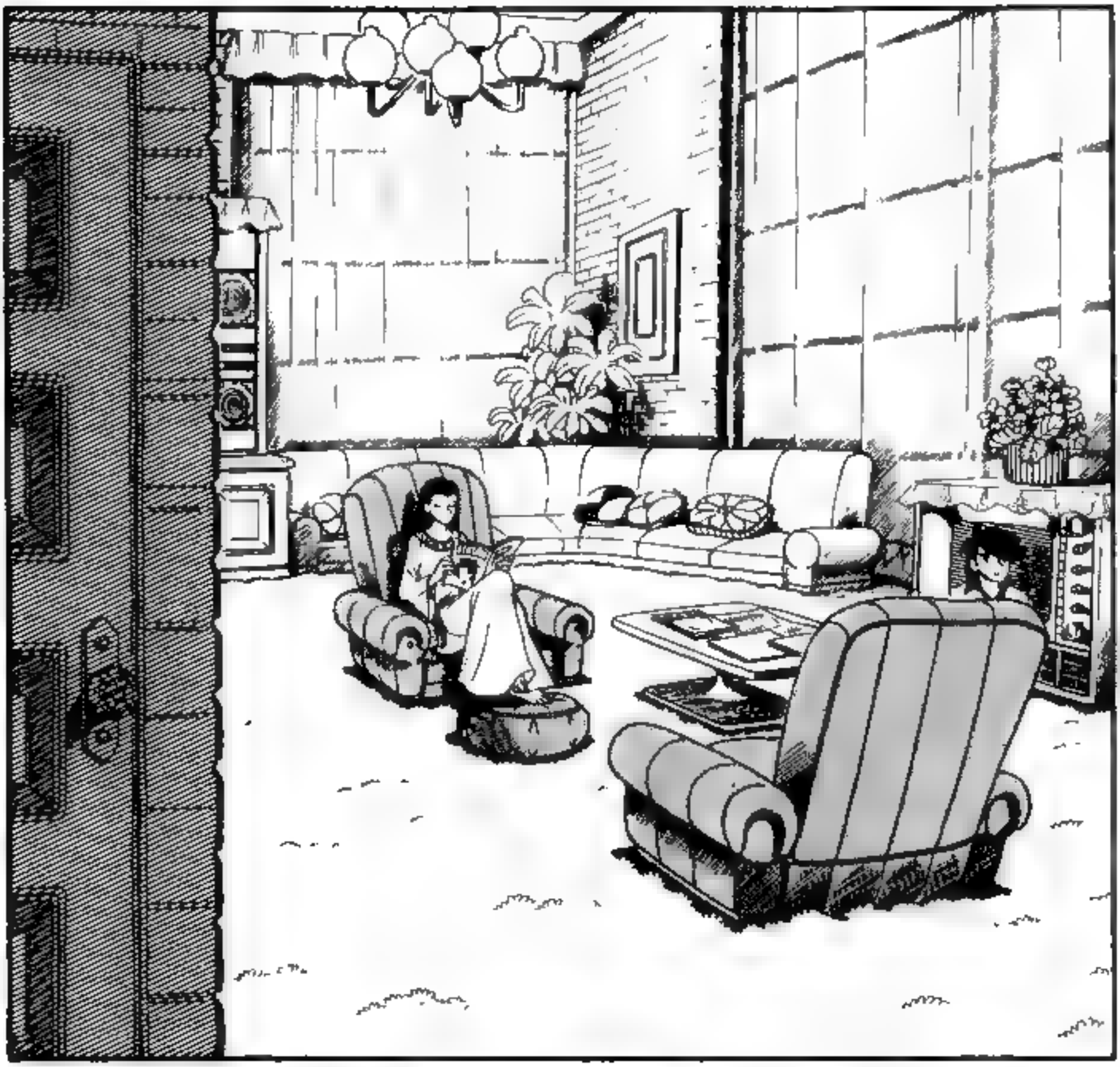
SHE'S BACK FROM HER TRIP ALREADY?


電気店



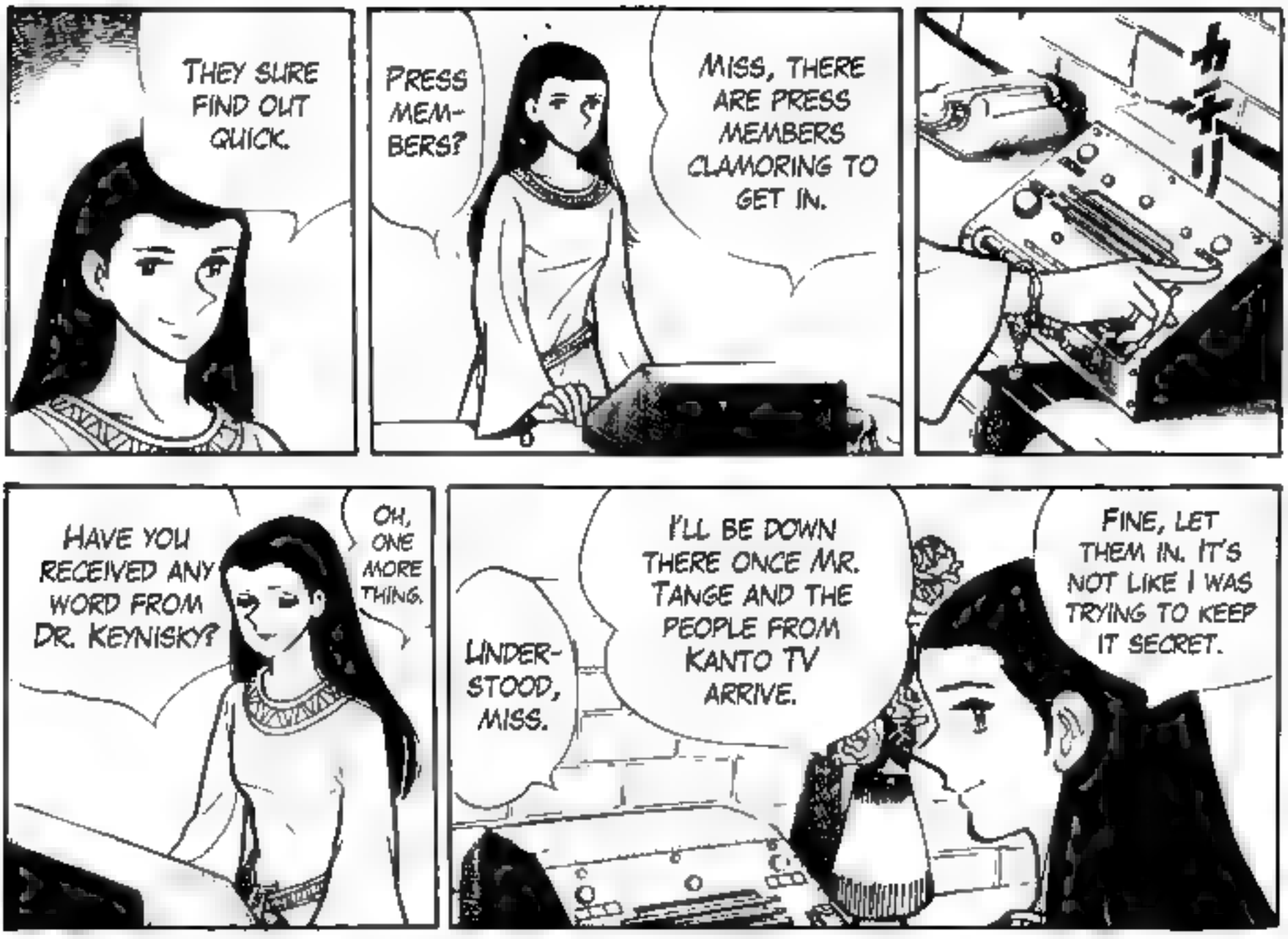

HE'S WAY BEYOND US NOW... I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD FEEL HAPPY OR SAD.
JOE'S SURE GOTTEN SUCCESSFUL...








ピ
週刊


THEY SURE FIND OUT QUICK.
PRESS MEM-BERS?
MISS, THERE ARE PRESS MEMBERS CLAMORING TO GET IN.
カチリ
HAVE YOU RECEIVED ANY WORD FROM DR. KEYNISKY?
OH, ONE MORE THING.
LINDER-STOOD, MISS.
I'LL BE DOWN THERE ONCE MR. TANGE AND THE PEOPLE FROM KANTO TV ARRIVE.
FINE, LET THEM IN. IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS TRYING TO KEEP IT SECRET.


カチ!!
THANK YOU.
NOT YET, MISS. I'LL CONNECT YOU TO HIM AS SOON AS HE CALLS.
WHO IS IT?
KNOCK KNOCK


GRANDPA!
IT'S ME. AM I DISTURBING YOU?
SIT DOWN.
IT'S RARE SEEING YOU HERE AT THE GYM THESE DAYS.
I THOUGHT I MIGHT AS WELL DROP BY WHILE COMING BACK FROM THE STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING.
YES, THAT'LL BE GOOD...
CARE FOR A DRINK?
I SEE YABUKI IS SHINING BRIGHTLY AS EVER.
HMM,

IS ALMOST LIKE A TV STAR THESE DAYS.

YA-BUKI JOE,

DO YOU MIND IF I SMOKE?

GO AHEAD.

BUT IT IS SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT...

IT'S ONLY NATURAL FOR PEOPLE TO MAKE A BIG FUSS ABOUT A BOXER ONCE HE'S RISEN HIGH ENOUGH.

AS IF HE CAN'T FIND A STABLE FOOTING.

HE SEEMS RESTLESS.

DON'T YOU THINK HIS EYES LACK THAT SHARP GLINT HE USED TO HAVE?

QUITE A HAND-SOME YOUTH.

HM...

TAKE A LOOK AT THIS COVER PICTURE OF HIM.


That raw wildness he showed back when he fought Rikiishi.
He's lost his wildness.
Now that you mention it... Yes... He seems to have softened in a way, I suppose.

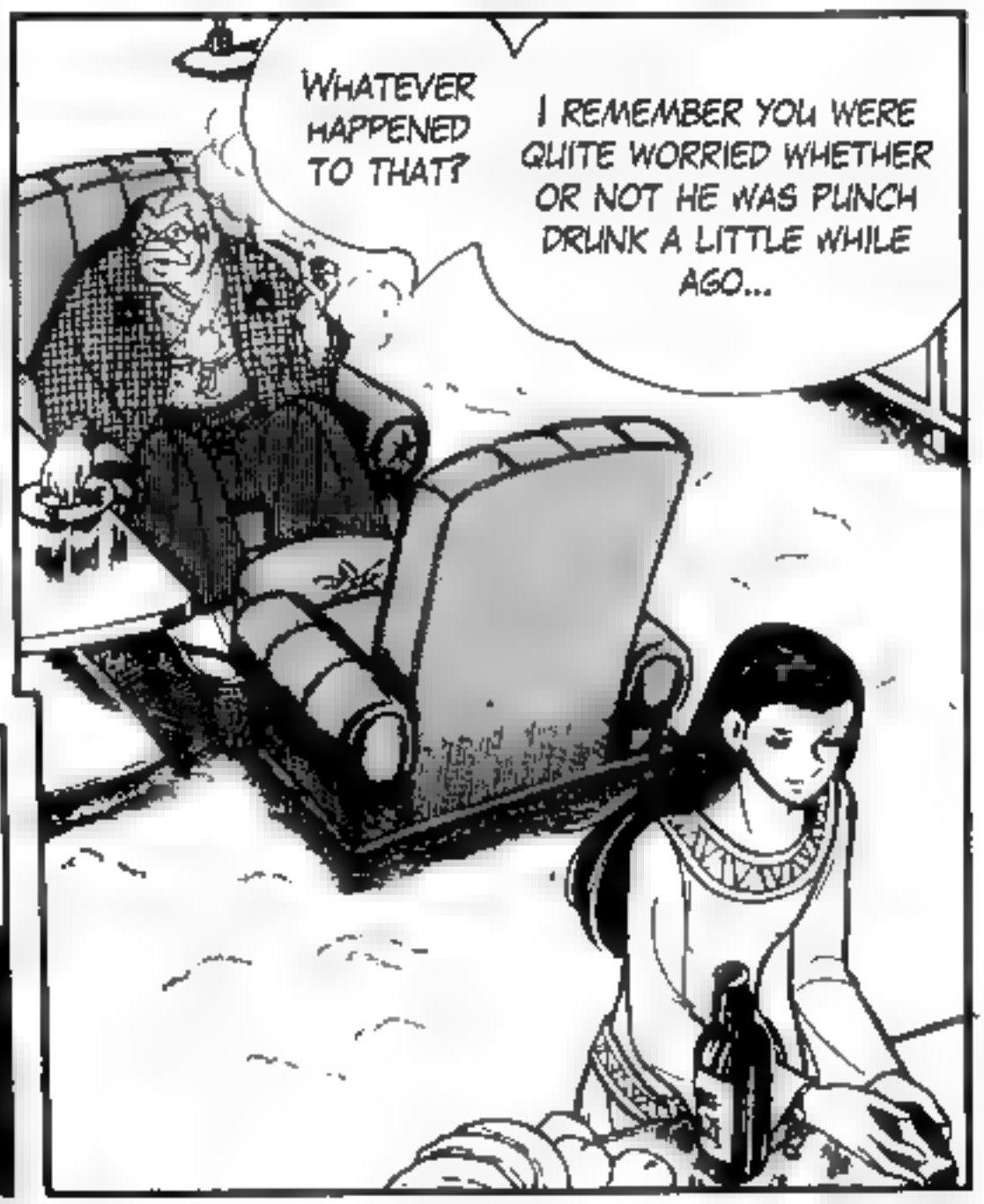

In any case, Youko.


Is that so?


Perhaps it's a sign that he's matured into an adult.


I was relieved to hear I was overthinking things.
Oh about that,


Really?


Whatever happened to that?
I remember you were quite worried whether or not he was punch drunk a little while ago...

YOU DID?

I BORROWED THE VIDEO FOOTAGE OF THE PINANG FIGHT FROM KANTO TV,

AND HAD JOSÉ MENDOZA'S PHYSICIAN, DR. KEYNISKY, TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT IT.

WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST HAVE YABUKI SEE THE DOCTOR WHILE HE WAS IN HAWAII?

YES, THAT'S WHAT DR. KEYNISKY WANTED TOO,

BUT CONSIDERING YABUKI'S PERSONALITY, I KNEW IT WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION...

HMM... YES, HE PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE AGREED.

HERE, IT'S YOUR FAVOURITE BLACK RUSSIAN.

AH, THANK YOU.

SO .

WAS THE DOCTOR CERTAIN?

WELL, HE DID SAY A PROPER MEDICAL EVALUATION IS DIFFICULT TO GIVE FROM A VIDEO FOOTAGE ALONE,

BUT AT THE VERY LEAST, HE ASSURED ME THERE WAS NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT YET.

I'M NO GOOD WITH ENGLISH.

THIS WAS THE LETTER FROM HIM.

HE'S TALKING ABOUT YABUKI HERE.

ALTHOUGH PUNCH DRUNK SYMPTOMS CAN BE DIFFICULT TO DETECT IN BOXERS FIXATED ON SOMETHING...

YES, PLEASE DO.

I'LL READ IT TO YOU THEN.

HM...

...DIFFICULT TO DETECT IN BOXERS FIXATED ON SOMETHING, THERE ARE AT LEAST TWO THINGS WHICH THEY CANNOT CONCEAL. THESE ARE "RESILIENCY" AND "DURABILITY."

YABUKI'S FIXATED ON HIS GOAL OF TAKING THE WORLD-TITLE NOW, YOU SEE.

A NORMAL BOXER CAN STILL BOUNCE BACK BY FOCUSING HIS MIND ON THE FIGHT DESPITE THE PHYSICAL PAIN, BUT A PUNCH DRUNK BOXER WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO EVEN FOCUS HIS MIND AND WILL QUICKLY LOSE HIS MOMENTUM.

HOWEVER, ONCE HE RECEIVES A HARD BLOW, IT IS HARD FOR HIM TO BOUNCE BACK, LIKE AN OLD RUBBER BAND THAT HAS LOST ITS ELASTICITY.

FOR INSTANCE, A DETERMINED PUNCH DRUNK BOXER CAN STILL WIN A BOUT WITH NO DIFFICULTIES AS LONG AS HE STARTS WITH THE UPPER HAND AND MAINTAINS HIS MOMENTUM THROUGH THE REMAINING ROUNDS.

SUBSEQUENTLY, HIS REFLEXES AND EYESIGHT WILL DIM TO AN EXTENT THAT HE RESEMBLES A SLEEPWALKING PERSON.

BY COMING BACK EVEN HARDER AND TOUGHER AFTER GETTING KNOCKED DOWN.

HE ALSO SHOWED GREAT MENTAL DURABILITY BY MAKING GOOD ON HIS KO PREDICTION,

IN YABUKI'S CASE, HE SHOWED GREAT RESILIENCY IN REBOUNDING BACK AFTER TAKING A HARD COUNTER FROM PINANG IN THE SECOND ROUND.

I SEE...

AS SUCH, NOT ONLY DO I BELIEVE HE'S NOT AFFLICTED WITH PUNCH DRUNKENNESS, BUT I ALSO THINK THERE ARE ONLY A HANDFUL OF BOXERS WHO ARE AS HARDY AS HIM.

THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR.

IF THE WORLD'S FOREMOST PHYSICIAN ON THE PHYSICAL HEALTH FOR BOXERS CAME TO THAT CONCLUSION, THERE SHOULD BE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

I STILL CAN'T COMPLETELY ERASE MY WORRIES...

TRIPPING ON THAT COCONUT SHELL, AND WALKING SLIGHTLY ASKEW...

CRASHING HIS CAR,

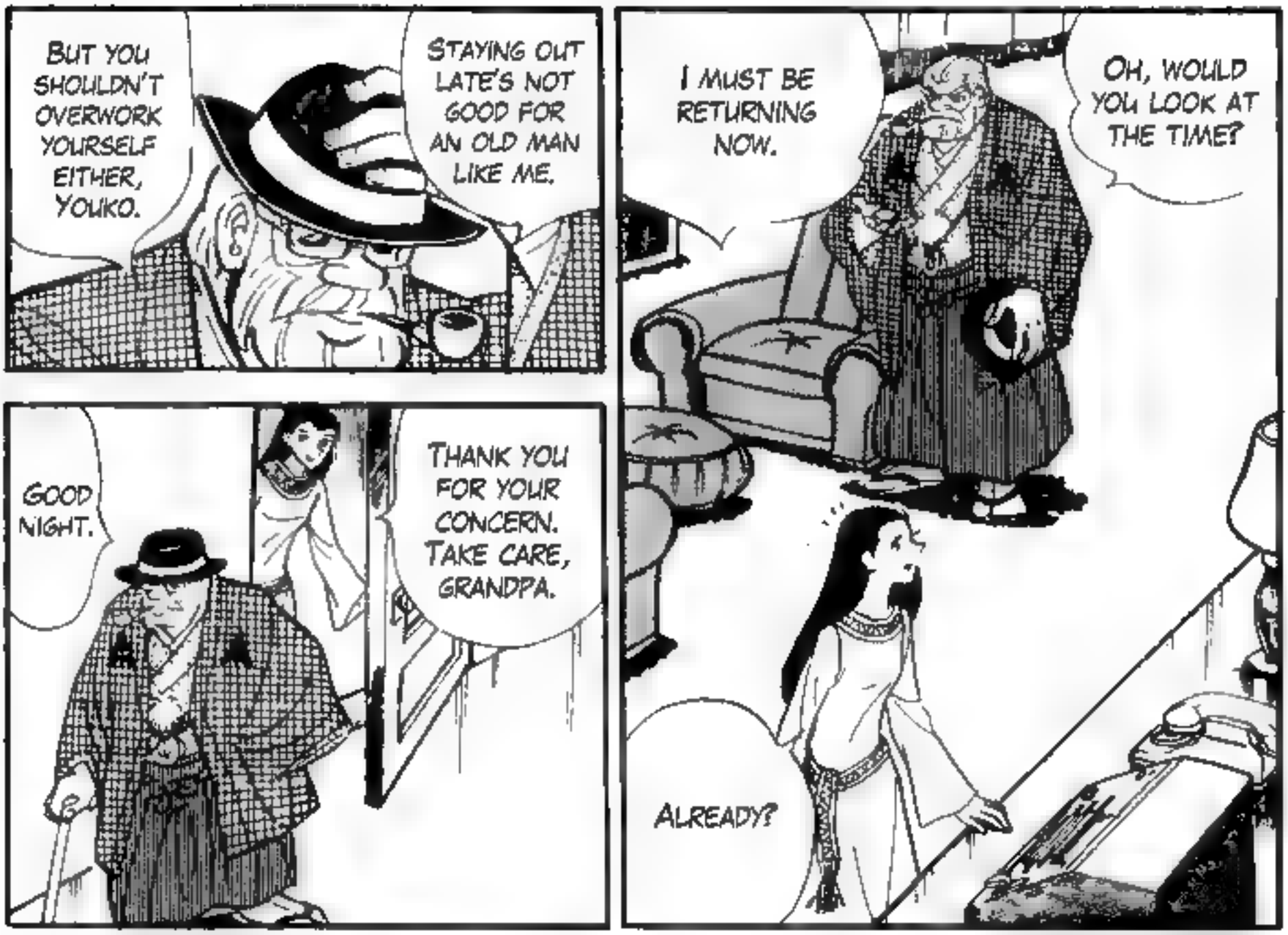
YES, BUT AS MUCH AS I WANT TO BELIEVE IN HIS WORDS,

7"

MY, MY... AREN'T YOU QUITE THE WORRIER.

I'M CURRENTLY WAITING FOR HIS REPLY.

I WANT DR. KEYNISKY TO COME AND HAVE A CLOSE LOOK AT ONE OF YABUKI'S FIGHTS LIVE.


BUT YOU SHOULDN'T OVERWORK YOURSELF EITHER, YOUKO.
STAYING OUT LATE'S NOT GOOD FOR AN OLD MAN LIKE ME.
GOOD NIGHT.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONCERN. TAKE CARE, GRANDPA.
I MUST BE RETURNING NOW.
OH, WOULD YOU LOOK AT THE TIME?
ALREADY?


カチ
ピピピ!
I APOLOGIZE FOR THE SUDDEN REQUEST IN SPITE OF YOUR BUSY SCHEDULE.
HELLO, DR. KEYNISKY. THIS IS SHIRAKI YOUKO SPEAKING.
THANK YOU.
I'LL CONNECT YOU TO HIM RIGHT AWAY
MISS, I'VE GOT DR. KEYNISKY FOR YOU ON THE OTHER LINE.

OH, THAT'S WONDERFUL!

. . . .

I'D BE VERY THANKFUL TO HAVE YOU FLY OVER HERE TO JAPAN. .

IF IT ISN'T TOO MUCH OF A STRAIN IN YOUR SCHEDULE,

THANK YOU VERY MUCH, DR. KEYNISKY!

YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW PLEASED I AM!

THE MEN FROM KANTO TV HAVE ARRIVED, AS WELL AS PRESIDENT TANGE AND YABUKI JOE.

I'LL COME RIGHT DOWN.

BZZZ!

MURMUR MUMUR

CALL UP ALL THE SHIRAKI GYM MANAGERS AND HAVE THEM COME TO THE MEETING ROOM.

OH, ONE MORE THING.

YES, MISS.

MURMUR...

I HEAR SHE WENT OVER TO MEXICO AND HAD MENDOZA AGREE TO IT.

I THINK IT'S TRUE.

HMM ...

IS IT TRUE?

HEY, ABOUT THE RUMOUR THAT SHIRAKI YOUKO'S GOT EXCLUSIVE NEGOTIATION RIGHTS AS THE PROMOTER FOR ANY OF MENDOZA'S FIGHTS IN JAPAN...

BEATS ME...

BUT SHE WOULDN'T EVEN MEET WITH THEM.

I HEARD DIRECTOR OOHASHI AND TANGE TRIED TALKING TO SHIRAKI YOUKO,

AFTER ALL THAT FINANCIAL SUPPORT KANTO TV'S PROVIDED YABUKI WITH, IT'S PRETTY MUCH ALL FOR NAUGHT IF THEY CAN'T HOLD THE CRITICAL WORLD-TITLE MATCH HERE IN JAPAN...

WITH ALL THE CARDS ON HER TABLE, SHE CAN PRETTY MUCH GET KANTO TV TO PAY UP AS MUCH AS SHE WANTS.

SHE'S GOT SOME GUTS, THAT'S FOR SURE.

SHE SURE CAN HANDLE HERSELF FOR A WOMAN.


THE QUEEN'S ARRIVED.
THERE SHE IS.
AH,


ガチャリ


EXCUSE ME FOR KEEPING YOU ALL WAITING...





Y-YES, THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONCERN, MISS. .

HEH HEH.

MUST BE TOUGH FOR YOU THESE DAYS.

DID YABUKI'S TV SPOT END?

. . . .

AH, SO YOU ARE STILL KEEPING UP WITH YOUR TRAINING.

VERY ADMI-RABLE.

CUT TO THE CHASE AND COME OUT WITH IT ALREADY.

SO WHAT IS IT YOU WANNA ANNOUNCE AFTER HAVING US ALL COME HERE?

J-JOE, CONTROL YOURSELF!

WHAT'RE YOU GETTIN' AT...?

I'VE GOTTA GET BACK TO THE GYM AND DO MY EVENING TRAINING!

OHHH!

THE CON-TRACT!?

SINCE MANY OF YOU PROBABLY HAVE DOUBTS ON WHETHER OR NOT I HAVE THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS TO MANAGING MENDOZA'S FIGHTS, ALLOW ME TO SHOW YOU THE CONTRACT.

FIRST,

MAY I TAKE A LOOK, GENTS?

THAT'S THE CHAMPION'S SIGNATURE ALRIGHT.

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT NOW...

MIND TELLING US WHAT YOU INTEND TO DO WITH IT, MISS?

WELL, NOW THAT WE KNOW THIS IS GENUINE,

...

IN ORDER TO TAKE. THAT IS HOW THIS WORLD WORKS.

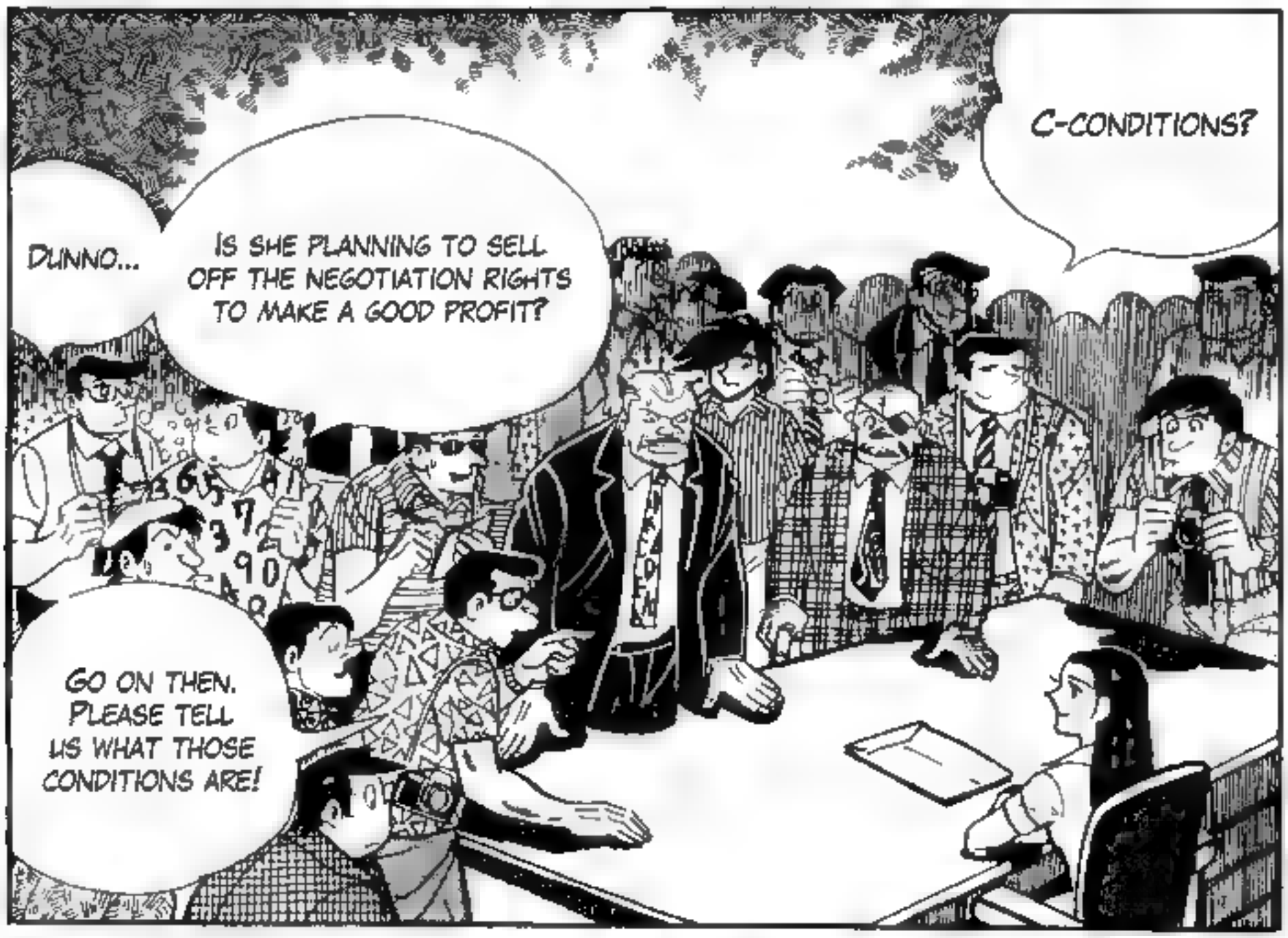
ONE MUST ALWAYS GIVE,

KANTO TV HAS WORKED TIRELESSLY TOWARDS THE GOAL OF HOLDING THE WORLD TITLE MATCH BETWEEN YABUKI AND MENDOZA HERE IN JAPAN.

BUT TO SNATCH AWAY OUR GOAL AT THE LAST MOMENT... ISN'T THAT JUST A LITTLE BIT UNFAIR?

AS LONG AS KANTO TV ACCEPTS MY CONDITIONS, THERE IS NO REASON WHY I SHOULD WITHHOLD YOUR GOAL FROM YOU.


WHAT SORT OF CONDITIONS?
CONDI-TIONS?


C-CONDITIONS?
DUNNO...
IS SHE PLANNING TO SELL OFF THE NEGOTIATION RIGHTS TO MAKE A GOOD PROFIT?
GO ON THEN. PLEASE TELL US WHAT THOSE CONDITIONS ARE!





YES.

THEN LET ME TELL YOU THAT I DON'T GIVE A CRAP ABOUT WHERE I FIGHT MENDOZA!

LET ME JUST ASK ONE THING BEFORE YOU SAY YOUR CONDITIONS.

WAIT A SEC...

YOUR RIGHTS ARE ONLY VALID FOR TITLE-MATCHES BETWEEN MENDOZA AND ME HERE IN JAPAN, RIGHT?

YES, YOU ARE OF COURSE FREE TO DO THAT.

GOT IT?

IN OTHER WORDS, IF I DON'T LIKE YOUR CONDITIONS, THEN I CAN JUST FLY OVER TO MEXICO MYSELF AND CHALLENGE MENDOZA.

DO YOU REALLY THINK A FIGHT BETWEEN ME AND MENDOZA WILL BE DECIDED BY BIAS FROM THE JUDGES OR THE REF?

DON'T SWEAT THE LITTLE DETAILS.

IT'LL BE A GREAT LOSS IF YOU WERE TO FIGHT THE TITLE-MATCH AWAY FROM JAPAN.

H-HOLD ON A MOMENT, YABUKI.

T-THAT'S RIGHT! YOU'LL EVEN HAVE TO DEAL WITH MENDOZA'S HOMETOWN ADVANTAGE IF YOU FIGHT HIM IN MEXICO!

I'LL BE LISTENING CLOSELY IN THE ROOM'S CORNER.

HURRY UP AND TELL US YOUR CONDITIONS.

ALRIGHT THEN.

AHH...

IS THAT YABUKI JOE MUST FIGHT ONE MORE PACIFIC TITLE-DEFENSE MATCH BEFORE CHALLENGING JOSÉ MENDOZA.

ONE,

I HEREBY OUTLINE TWO CONDITIONS.

WHAT!

THESE ARE THE ONLY TWO CONDI-TIONS.

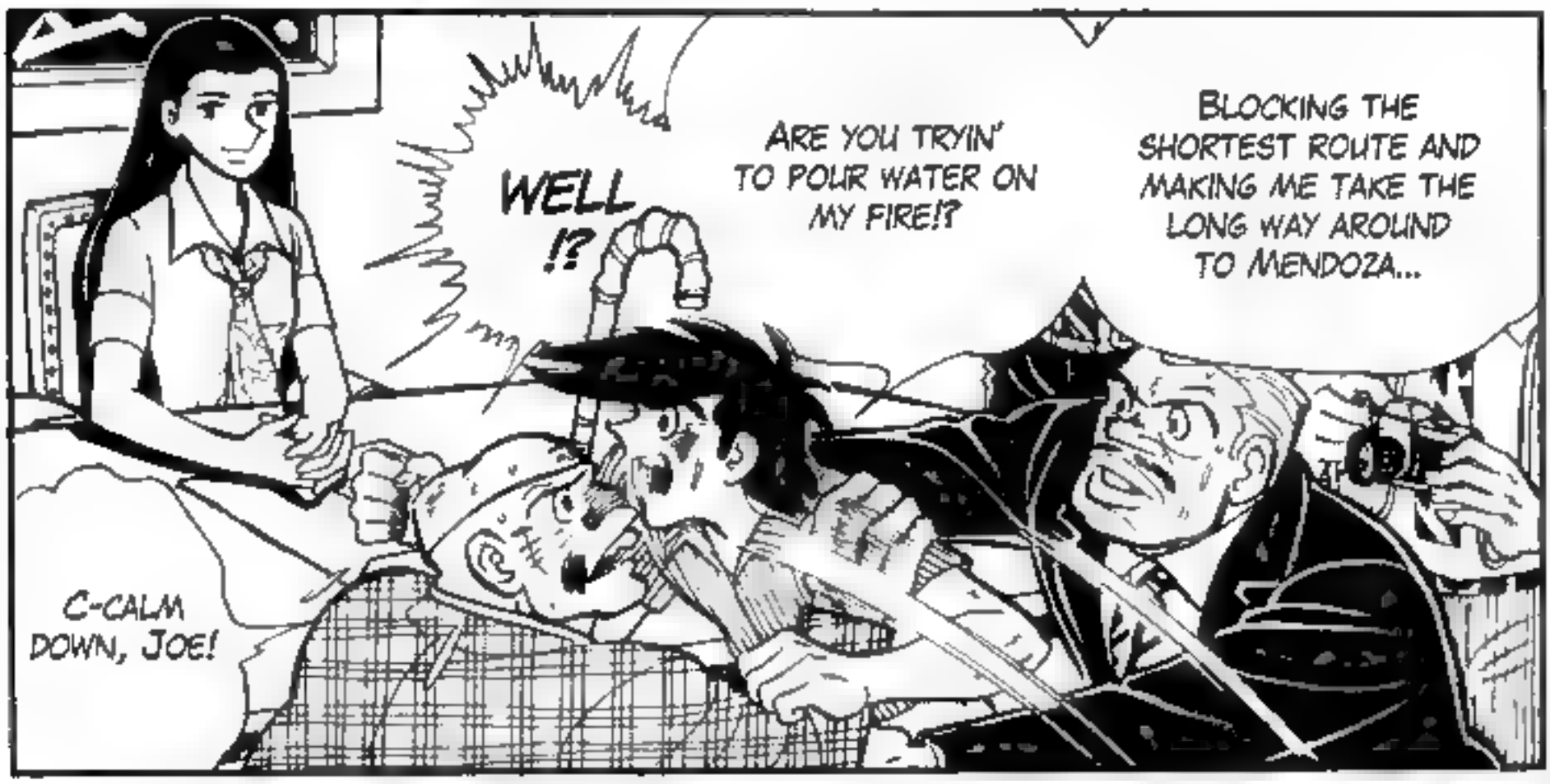
IS THAT MY SHIRAKI GYM WILL BE GRANTED THE RIGHTS TO CHOOSE THE BOXER WHOM YABUKI MUST FIGHT IN HIS TITLE-DEFENSE.

THE SECOND,


WHAT'S YOUR REASON?
W-WHY THOSE CONDITIONS?


JUST WHEN I WAS WONDERING WHAT KIND OF CRAP YOU'D SAY, YOU TELL ME THAT I HAVE TO PLAY THAT STUPID TITLE-DEFENSE GAME ONE MORE DAMN TIME?


WHAT DID YOU SAY...?


WELL !?
ARE YOU TRYIN' TO POUR WATER ON MY FIRE!?
BLOCKING THE SHORTEST ROUTE AND MAKING ME TAKE THE LONG WAY AROUND TO MENDOZA...
C-CALM DOWN, JOE!

I WILL ONLY LISTEN TO A YES OR NO RIGHT NOW.

AH...

CAN YOU AT LEAST TELL ME HIS NAME?

OF BOXER DO YOU HAVE IN MIND FOR YABUKI'S TITLE-DEFENSE MATCH...?

J... JUST WHAT SORT,

WILL YOU ACCEPT MY CONDITIONS OR NOT, MR. OOHASHI?

I'M SPEAKING TO MR. OOHASHI RIGHT NOW...

TELL ME YOUR REASON FIRST AND YOU'LL HAVE YOUR GODDAMNED ANSWER!

TELL ME YOUR DAMN REASON! WHY THE HELL ARE YOU MAKIN' ME GO THROUGH ALL THIS TEDIOUS CRAP!?

HA...

...

WHO THE HELL WOULD WANT TO FIGHT WITH SOME GUY YOU'LL PICK!?

I AIN'T AGREEING EVEN IF KANTO TV AGREES!

HAHAHA... PLAYING WITH ANOTHER MAN'S FATE...

THIS IS RETARDED! I'M LEAVING!

J-JOE! NO, WAIT!

JOEEE!

I SUPPOSE SOME SACRIFICES MUST BE MADE.

EVEN THOUGH WE AT KANTO TV WISHED TO PUSH YABUKI INTO A WORLD-TITLE MATCH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE,

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE PLANNING,

TO BE FRANK,

TO FIGHT ONE MORE PACIFIC TITLE-DEFENSE MATCH.

I WILL DO MY BEST TO PERSUADE YABUKI,

BUT FINE...

AH-

GOOD NIGHT THEN.

I'LL SEND YOU THE OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS FOR YOU TO SIGN SO WE CAN MAKE THIS AGREEMENT LEGALLY BINDING.

THEN IT'S DECIDED.

W-W-WAIT!

CAN'T YOU PLEASE EXPLAIN A LITTLE ABOUT YOUR REASONING BEHIND THEM?

MS. SHIRAKI! WE CAN'T WRITE AN ARTICLE KNOWING ONLY THOSE TWO SEEMINGLY RANDOM CONDITIONS!

I'VE GOT NO IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON IN HER MIND THESE DAYS.

UGH...

AH-

IF SHE PLANNED TO SELL THE RIGHTS TO KANTO TV,

OR TAKE CARE OF ALL THE ARRANGEMENTS AND HOLD THE MATCH ALL BY HERSELF FOR A PROFIT... THAT I CAN UNDERSTAND.


WHO COULD'VE EXPECTED THAT TO BE HER CONDITION?
BUT HAVING YABUKI FIGHT ONE MORE PACIFIC TITLE-DEFENSE, WHICH IS LIKE PEANUTS COMPARED TO A WORLD-TITLE MATCH...
SHIRAKI BOXING CL
TALK ABOUT BAFFLING...
MAYBE IT'S JUST THE RANDOM WHIMS OF A RICH LADY.
NO WONDER YABUKI BLEW HIS LID AFTER ACCUSING HER OF TOYING WITH HIS FATE!


HAHA...
THE RANDOM WHIMS OF A RICH LADY, I SEE...


YOU MUST BE QUITE TIRED AFTER THE LONG TRIP TO HAWAII AND SOUTHEAST ASIA...
GOOD EVENING, MA'AM.
GOOD EVENING, PRESIDENT SHIRAKI.


SO I'LL SPARE THE LONG TALK AND GET RIGHT TO POINT.
I DO APOLOGIZE FOR CALLING YOU ALL UP SUDDENLY THIS LATE IN THE EVENING.
NO, I'M FINE.

I CALLED ALL YOU GENTLEMEN SUDDENLY TONIGHT,

BECAUSE OUR SHIRAKI PROMOTIONS HAS BEEN CHOSEN TO FIND A CHALLENGER FOR YABUKI JOE'S NEXT PACIFIC TITLE-DEFENSE MATCH.

THUS, I ASK YOU ALL TO PREPARE FOR AN OVERSEAS TRIP IMMEDIATELY.

HMM?

AN OVERSEAS TRIP?

FIND A CHAL-LENGER?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

JUST...

WHERE IS THIS CHALLENGER?

WHAT IS HIS NAME?

I DO NOT KNOW HIS NAME,

FOR YOU GENTLEMEN WILL BE TRAVELLING OVERSEAS TO CHOOSE WHO THIS MAN WILL BE.

AFRAID WE DON'T QUITE FOLLOW...

I'M...

AND WHY MUST ALL OF US GO...?

.....

.....

IN THIS PACIFIC REGION WHICH ENJOY BOXING.

THAT IS BECAUSE WE MUST SCOUR ALL THE COUNTRIES,

H-HOLD ON A MOMENT, MA'AM.

AND YOU HAVE TREMENDOUSLY HELPED AN AMATEUR LIKE ME ON HOW TO WADE THROUGH THE ROUGH WATERS OF THE BOXING WORLD.

HOWEVER, YOU ARE ALL PROFESSIONALS WITH YEARS OF EXPERIENCE,

I AM ASKING YOU TO UTILIZE YOUR INSTINCTS, SKILLS, AND EXPERIENCE TO FIND THIS IDEAL CHALLENGER, WHEREVER HE MAY BE.

ARE YOU SERIOUSLY TELLING US TO FIND A BOXER WITHOUT THE SLIGHTEST LEAD?

YES... THE CHALLENGER'S IDENTITY AS OF NOW REMAINS A BLANK SLATE.

DOES HE NOT HAVE TO BE RANKED 10TH OR ABOVE IN THE PACIFIC LEAGUE IN ORDER TO CHALLENGE YABUKI JOE FOR THE TITLE?

EVEN IF WE DO FIND THIS IDEAL CHALLENGER,

B-BUT...

LET ME TELL YOU THE KIND OF CHALLENGER I'M LOOKING FOR.

MORE IMPORTANTLY,

I WILL TAKE CARE OF THAT PROBLEMS, SO IGNORE THAT FOR NOW.

DON'T WORRY.

HMM...

HOW CAN I BEST DESCRIBE HIM...

RATHER THAN BOXING, HE MUST FIRST AND FOREMOST BE STRONG AT FIGHTING!

AH, YES!

A-AT FIGHTING...?

HE SHOULD BE A BEAST OF THE WILD HIDING STRENGTH WHICH SURPASSES THE LOGIC OF OUR RIGID SOCIETY!

BURLY, RESOLUTE, BOLD, AND ROUGH!

A FIERCE FIGHTER LIKE THE MAN YABUKI JOE WAS WHEN HE DROVE RIKIISHI TOORU TO DEATH ON THE RING!

GULP

.....

THERE'S AN ODD INTENSITY EMANATING FROM HER...

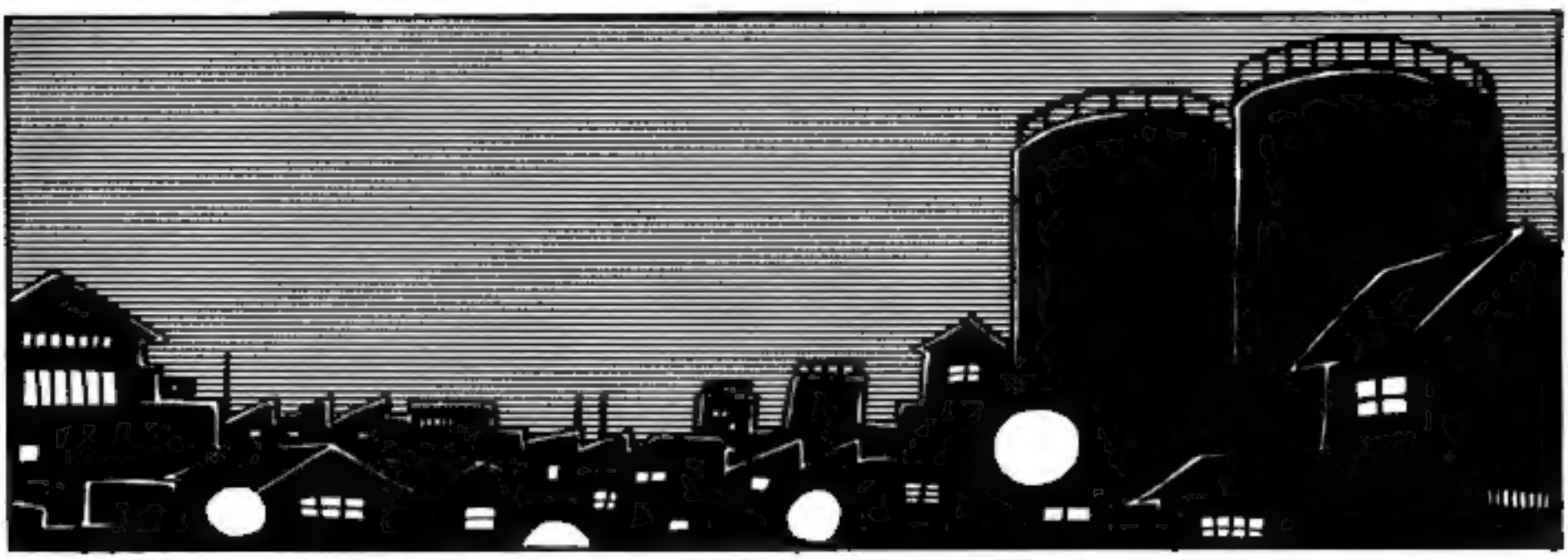
HMM..

S-SHE SEEMS ALMOST POSSESS-ED.

Y-YOU THINK SOMETHING'S THE MATTER WITH PRESIDENT SHIRAKI...?


THANK YOU.
WE WILL DEPART AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
IF SUCH A BOXER WERE TO EXIST... IT WOULD BE FAR LIKELIER FOR HIM TO BE IN THE YET UNDEVELOPED LANDS OF ASIA THAN THE MODERNIZED COUNTRIES OF EUROPE OR AMERICA.
U... UNDER-STOOD, MA'AM.





[VOLUME 17 - END]

CLEANING: HAPPYSCANS
TRANSLATOR: HOX
TYPESETTERS: ARLES,
CRAZY_HORSE, NETHANDLE



あなたは、この本を読んで、どのような感想をおもちになりましたか。

このほかに、「講談社コミックス」の中で、どんな本を読まれましたか。

このつぎには、どんな作家の、どんなまんがを読みたいとお考えですか。

コミックス編集の参考にさせていただきたいと思います。「読後の感想」と合わせて、左記のところあてにお知らせください。

東京都文京区音羽二丁目十二番二十一号
（郵便番号一一二）
「講談社コミックス」編集部

講談社コミックス　一七二巻

あしたのジョー⑰

定価　三五〇円

昭和55年11月25日　第24刷発行

N.D.C　726　　242P　　18cm

著者　高森朝雄　ちばてつや

発行者　野間省一

発行所　株式会社講談社
東京都文京区音羽二―一二―二一
（郵便番号一一二）
電話　東京（03）九四五―一一一一（大代表）
振替　東京八―三九三〇番

印刷所　図書印刷株式会社

製本所　株式会社国宝社

落丁本・乱丁本はお取りかえいたします
©高森朝雄・ちばてつや　一九七二年

091724-2253　（1）（マ）

Printed in Japan

KC 講談社コミックス 大好評発売中!

大器のマウンド
①～⑤〈完〉
史村翔
岩崎健二
高校野球の魅力の原点をはつらつタッチで描く野球編

青春山脈
①～⑫〈完〉
梶原一騎
かざま鋭二
戦中戦後の激動の中を生きぬく青春群像を描いて評判

多羅尾伴内
①～⑤
石森章太郎
小池一夫
比佐芳武
七つの顔の名探偵多羅尾伴内が鋭い推理で事件に挑む

昭和一代女
全①巻
梶原一騎
上村一夫
汚辱の波にもまれながら凄絶に生きぬく衝撃の女道!

フットボール鷹
①～⑩〈完〉
川崎のぼる
本場のスカウトをめざしてアメリカに乗りこむ夕日野鷹!

新巨人の星
①～⑪〈完〉
梶原一騎
川崎のぼる
不死鳥飛雄馬がよみがえった! 名作巨人の星の続編

翔んだカップル
①～⑬
柳沢きみお
かわいい圭ちゃん誰のもの? さわやか恋愛コメディー

ガクエン遊び人
①～②〈完〉
新田たつお
気鋭の大型新人が描く、けたはずれ恐怖ギャグ!

大純情くん
①～③〈完〉
松本零士
短足ガニマタの物野けじめくんが明日を夢みて大奮戦

男おいどん
①～⑨〈完〉
松本零士
松本ブームに火をつけた、おなじみ四畳半ギャグ!

永井豪SF傑作集
①～⑦
永井豪
鬼・吸血鬼狩りなど、鬼才永井豪の傑作SFを全網羅

四角いジャングル
①～⑪〈完〉
梶原一騎
中城健
格闘技世界一は何だ!? 迫真のタッチで描く激闘巨編

大リーグスーパースター物語
全①巻
峰岸とおる
誇り高き大リーガーたちのすさまじい球魂を描く!

クイーン・エメラルダス
①～④〈完〉
松本零士
放浪する女戦士エメラルダスの大宇宙航海記!

★品切れの時は、本屋さんに注文して下さい。

定価 各350円